

Research on the Construction of Practical Curricula for Study Tours Based on the Yellow River Culture: Taking Henan province as an Example

Jing Wei^a Yuanjian Xu^b and Aoran Ling^c

^a School of History and Culture, Henan Normal University, China

^b School of Social Undertakings, Henan Normal University, China

^c Faculty of Arts, Henan Normal University, China

Received 07 January 2024, Revised 03 April 2024, Accepted 01 July 2024

Abstract

Purpose – The primary aim of this paper is to fulfill the fundamental task of fostering morality among primary and secondary school students. It seeks to help them understand the state of the nation, cultivate a love for the motherland, broaden horizons and acquire knowledge. Additionally, it emphasizes enhancing their sense of social responsibility, the spirit of innovation and practical abilities.

Design/Methodology/Approach – Based on the Yellow River culture and study tours, the curricula are constructed by taking policy advantages, utilizing the abundant Yellow River cultural resources, integrating and innovating the forms of the Yellow River cultural resources, and creating distinctive brands and tourism routes focused on study tours based on the Yellow River culture.

Findings – This paper delves into the construction of practical curricula for study tours based on the Yellow River culture.

Research Implications – This research can propel the ideological and political development of practical curricula, underscore the value of ecological civilization education and facilitate interdisciplinary education.

Keywords: the Yellow River culture, study tours, practical curricula

JEL Classifications: I21,Z20,L83

Fund Projects: Soft Science Research Program of Henan Province (Project No. 222400410341), Soft Science Research Program of Xinxiang City (Project No. RKX2021002).

^a Lecturer, School of History and Culture, Henan Normal University, China ,First Author, E-mail: 438160420@qq.com

^b Teaching assistant, School of Social Work, Henan Normal University, China , Second Author, E-mail: 466271629@qq.com

^c Corresponding Author, E-mail: 767781587@qq.com

© 2023 The NLBA Eurasian Institute Limited. All rights reserved.

I. Introduction

As a vital component of Chinese traditional culture, the Yellow River culture has consistently garnered the attention of scholars. Currently, academic research on the Yellow River culture primarily focuses on its formation and development, interpretation and dissemination, historical significance, and contemporary relevance. Regarding the Yellow River culture in educational contexts, the academic community primarily emphasizes the cultivation of geographical subject literacy and discusses, at a relatively superficial level, how to conduct research, develop activity plans and design content. How to undertake the protection, inheritance and promotion of the Yellow River culture, and how to better integrate it into the holistic development of students in the new era, are crucial research topics.

In 2016, the collective *Opinions* issued by 11 departments, including the Ministry of Education, on fostering study tour opportunities for primary and secondary school students, presented an inspiring concept. The term “study tour” stands as an abbreviation for research-based learning, encapsulating educational endeavors where students, guided by educators, actively engage with problems or topics. Students take the initiative to dissect and resolve issues, acquiring knowledge and gaining experiences creatively through scientific methodologies such as inquiry, investigation, experimentation and production. Within the framework of the study tour curricula, the “life world” of students becomes the focal point for curricular content and resources, with study routes serving as the conduit for delivering these educational elements. Through independent exploration and thematic activities, students gain firsthand and personal experiences, constructing their own thoughts and emotions. The objectives of the curricula for study tours based on the Yellow River culture are multifaceted: they aim to delve deeply into and embody the spirit of General Secretary Xi Jinping’s important speeches, uphold the development philosophy of “innovation, coordination, greenness, openness and sharing”, and fulfill the fundamental task of moral cultivation. The curricula strive to assist primary and secondary school students in understanding the state of the nation, cultivating a love for the motherland, broadening horizons and acquiring knowledge. Simultaneously, they emphasize enhancing students’ sense of social responsibility, the spirit of innovation and practical abilities. Henan, nestled in the middle and lower reaches of the Yellow River in China, boasts an abundance of cultural and tourism resources. Hence, developing a study program rooted in the Yellow River culture holds unique geographical, historical and temporal significance.

II. Analysis of the Value of the Practical Curricula for Study Tours Based on the Yellow River Culture

1. Ideological and Political Education Value of the Practical Curricula for Study Tours Based on the Yellow River Culture

The Yellow River, known as the mother river of Chinese civilization, is not only the cradle of Chinese civilization but also a hub of China’s excellent traditional culture. The core ideas, traditional Chinese virtues and the humanistic spirit embedded in the Yellow River culture provide a profound interpretation of Chinese civilization. Through in-depth study and practical activities, students can more comprehensively explore and understand the abundant connotations of the Yellow River culture, thereby further enhancing their awareness and appreciation of it. Integrating the Yellow River culture into practical curricula for study tours not only

enhances teaching effectiveness but also allows students to deeply appreciate the charm of the Yellow River culture. By utilizing the spiritual achievements of the Yellow River Basin, educators can instill patriotism and foster national pride among students (XU Xiutan, Hao Peipei, & Ma Shengjun, 2023). Simultaneously, they can guide students in developing a spirit of the times centered on reform and innovation. The heroic deeds and the unyielding spirit of the sons and daughters of the Yellow River Basin in their resistance against foreign enemies embody the spirit of the Chinese nation. These spiritual resources provide invaluable moral education materials, enabling students to deeply perceive and inherit the excellent traditions and spiritual outlook of the Chinese nation during their studies.

2. Ecological Civilization Education Value of the Practical Curricula for Study Tours Based on the Yellow River Culture

General Secretary Xi Jinping's visionary concept, "Green water and green mountains are gold and silver mountains", has ignited the flame of ecological civilization education within us. Through our research and studies, we delve deeply into the intricate relationship between ecological preservation and economic and social progress in the Yellow River Basin. This endeavor not only provides students with a profound understanding of green development but also illuminates the philosophical insights into the materiality, objective interconnectedness and unity of opposites inherent in nature. The abundant history of the Yellow River Basin boasts inspiring tales of water management wisdom and dedication from figures such as Dayu, Jia Rang and Chen Huang. Their lives and achievements serve as vivid educational tools for fostering an ecological perspective, life outlook and values. Their deeds underscore that the governance and development of the Yellow River represent a relentless quest for harmonious coexistence between man and nature. The study content, imbued with historical significance and infused with practical inspiration, holds immense value in nurturing students' comprehensive literacy and philosophical thinking skills.

3. Interdisciplinary Education Value of the Practical Curricula for Study Tours Based on the Yellow River Culture

Establishing a study framework centered around the Yellow River culture aims to seamlessly integrate core academic curricula for students and foster interdisciplinary collaboration. To gain a profound appreciation of the "timeless, vast and profound essence of Chinese culture", educators may find it enriching to quote the renowned verse "The Yellow River stretches afar, veiled by white clouds", extracted from the ancient poem Liangzhou Ci, to illustrate the dual roles of the Yellow River as both a tangible geographical feature and an intangible spiritual nourishment. The Longshan culture, the Western Zhou civilization and the agricultural traditions nurtured by the Yellow River Basin are intricately bound to its distinctive geological and morphological landscapes. During this endeavor, we transcended the confines of a singular discipline, guiding students through immersive learning experiences and dedicating ourselves to fostering their holistic literacy. As a result, we have achieved remarkable educational outcomes and teaching accomplishments.

III. Paths to Constructing the Practical Curricula for Study Tours Based on the Yellow River Culture

1. Taking Policy Advantages

The Yellow River, a majestic and ancient waterway, holds the title of the mother river of the Chinese nation. Its enduring presence and vitality have been pivotal in sustaining and advancing Chinese civilization. More than merely a river, it stands as a symbol of profound historical and cultural significance. Leaders throughout the ages have placed immense importance on safeguarding the Yellow River and perpetuating its abundant cultural heritage. During the Symposium on Ecological Protection and High-Quality Development of the Yellow River Basin held on September 18th, 2019, General Secretary Xi Jinping emphasized the crucial role of the Yellow River culture (Ji Junchang, 2019). He advocated for a deep exploration of its contemporary value, urging us to continue its historical narrative and thereby bolster our cultural confidence. This directive has set a clear path forward and infused new energy into the preservation and evolution of the Yellow River culture. In 2019, the Henan Provincial Department of Culture and Tourism introduced a strategic vision: “Focusing on one line, breaking through two cities and lighting up several stars.” The “focusing on one line” aspect entails vigorously promoting the study tour program of the Yellow River culture, with the Yellow River as its core (Jin Yifei et al., 2022). This initiative not only aims to elevate the profile of the Yellow River culture but also to stimulate economic growth in the surrounding regions, fostering a harmonious blend of cultural and economic prosperity. The Henan River Affairs Bureau further elaborated on this vision in 2020 with the release of the *Work Plan for Protecting, Inheriting and Promoting the Yellow River Culture in Henan*. This plan underscores the creation of renowned cultural brands that encapsulate the unique characteristics of the Henan segment of the Yellow River Basin and the establishment of corresponding promotional and educational platforms. These measures provide a robust institutional framework for the preservation and advancement of the Yellow River culture. As study tours gain momentum, Henan Province continued to innovate and explore new avenues. In 2022, Henan aimed to fully propel the development of study tours, with the aspiration of creating its own study brands through the “Walking in Henan and Understanding China” program. This endeavor contributes to the dissemination of the Yellow River culture and regional development. Additionally, Henan’s new college entrance examination reform system presents fresh opportunities for study tours. This shift from exam-oriented education to quality education encourages students to prioritize comprehensive skill development over mere academic scores, which is a boon for study tours based on the Yellow River culture. The study tours based on the Yellow River culture should capitalize on these historic junctures, taking policy advantages to accelerate their growth. By crafting a series of distinctive study and practice programs, they can attract a broader audience of students. Through personal engagement, students can appreciate the enchantment of the Yellow River culture, bolster their cultural confidence and contribute to the realization of the Chinese dream of national rejuvenation.

2. Utilizing the Abundant Yellow River Cultural Resources

The Yellow River, the lifeblood of the Chinese nation, embodies a profound historical and cultural heritage, encapsulating boundless wisdom and prosperity. The Yellow River culture transcends being a solitary cultural expression; it is a holistic amalgamation of diverse material, spiritual and institutional cultures. Within

the realm of material culture, the Yellow River has been a testament to the evolution of China's arid-land agriculture, fostering pivotal historical milestones such as the advent of rammed earth construction, the birth of polychrome ceramics and the propagation of China's "Four Great Inventions". Spiritually and culturally, this riverine civilization harbors the genesis of the philosophical thoughts contained in *Hetu Luoshu*, while witnessing the assimilation and transformation of *Zhouyi* theories, Confucianism, Taoism and Buddhism onto its shores. Institutionally, the Yellow River culture holds sway, having nurtured the refinement of the imperial succession model, the patriarchal structure, the imperial examination system, the legal frameworks and the agricultural land taxation. The Yellow River culture's distinctive appeal and historical significance bestow upon us invaluable cultural treasures and impart us with cherished historical lessons and inspiration. It is imperative that we cherish and perpetuate this culture, ensuring it takes deep root in our hearts and blossoms into an even more resplendent cultural tapestry. Nestled in the heart of the Central Plains, Henan Province boasts abundant tourism resources, laying a robust foundation for the advancement of study tours based on the Yellow River culture. Its strategic geographical positioning has facilitated the development of its highly developed road, railway and air transportation networks, making it a crucial national transportation hub. These convenient transportation links not only serve as a vital conduit for national connectivity, but also draw numerous tourists. Henan Province excels in reception facilities as well, with numerous high-star tourist hotels offering cozy accommodation experiences that ensure the seamless progression of study tours. Notably, Henan Province has also diligently invested in the establishment of study sites, leveraging the expertise of thousands of practitioners and nearly a thousand professional study instructors, thereby accumulating extensive experience and a sturdy groundwork for the growth of study tours.

3. Integrating and Innovating the forms of the Yellow River Cultural Resources

Nestled in the middle and lower reaches of the Yellow River, Henan Province boasts exceptional cultural resources tied to this iconic waterway. To fully harness the depth and breadth of these resources, educators must strive to develop and utilize these resources effectively through a diverse array of methodologies, embrace a tailored approach that adapts to local conditions, and nurture students according to their individual aptitudes. Regarding the natural splendor of the Yellow River Basin, educators must uphold the principle that "protection is development", ensuring students marvel at the wonders of the Yellow River Basin and immerse themselves in its grandeur and mystery during study tours. Educators can ingeniously integrate the Yellow River culture into live performances, seamlessly aligning them with students' educational syllabi. By meticulously collecting, screening and adapting legends, stories and the spirit of the characters from the Henan segment of the Yellow River Basin, educators can transform relevant scenic spots into vibrant stages that showcase the Yellow River culture. These performances, not only highlighting the Yellow River's cultural heritage, but also incorporating interactive question-and-answer sessions, will allow students to engage personally and experience the culture deeply while enjoying the spectacles. Furthermore, educators must systematically organize and integrate the Yellow River cultural resources, revitalizing the relics that lie dormant in museums, the water conservancy heritage that stands tall on the earth, and the river management imagery and texts inscribed in ancient tomes. To achieve this, it is imperative to accelerate the construction of a national-level Yellow River Museum and harness the potential of Yellow River museums and education bases of water conditions across the country. Through innovative exhibition and publicity techniques, we can bring the Yellow River cultural heritage into people's daily life and strike an emotional chord with them. The nationwide Yellow River Cultural Creativity

Competition has infused a robust momentum into the creation of the industry chain of the Yellow River Cultural creativity. In this manner, we are poised to write a new glorious chapter in the inheritance and innovation of the Yellow River culture.

4. Creating Distinctive Brands Focused on Study Tours Based on the Yellow River Culture

In recent years, the momentum behind the growth of study tours has been nothing short of remarkable, yet they still lacks the adequate social recognition they deserves. To propel the popularity of study tours, it is imperative that we disseminate relevant concepts more widely. In terms of audience analysis, our primary focus should be on engaging educators actively. We can organize promotional activities featuring the concept of study tours and led by university professors to elevate their understanding and secure their endorsement and recognition from their respective institutions. Educators must integrate study tours into curricula for various academic disciplines, thereby broadening students' horizons. Through this approach, students will not only acquire knowledge through practical experience but will also develop a more holistic set of abilities and qualities. Furthermore, educators must intensify their publicity efforts to garner the support of parents. By organizing parent meetings, leveraging social media platforms and disseminating educational bureau documents, educators can cultivate a favorable image of study tours. Only by doing so can we ensure that study tours gradually gain widespread societal recognition and establish a solid foundation for their sustained development.

Moreover, with the theme "Hometown Henan", we can design study products and produce promotional videos to showcase the Yellow River culture to a broader audience, enhancing the appeal of the Henan study tours. By selecting high-profile platforms such as Henan Satellite TV and CCTV, we can draw more attention to and deepen the understanding of the abundant cultural heritage of this region.

5. Creating Tourism Routes of Study Tours Based on the Yellow River Culture

Study tours based on the Yellow River culture emphasize linear heritage and node cities, dedicated to promoting a diverse array of tourism routes that encapsulate the Yellow River's ecology, history, revolution, culture, exchanges and educational journeys. By collaborating with provinces and cities along the Yellow River, as well as international organizations, we will host the Grand River Civilization Development Forum and the Cultural Tourism Expo, showcasing the profound essence of the Yellow River culture. Leveraging the "Belt and Road" initiative, the study tours aim to disseminate the Yellow River culture to over 60 countries, enabling more individuals to appreciate and experience the allure of it. These means will further elevate the international standing of the cultural tourism of the Yellow River and make positive contributions to fostering the exchange and mutual learning among civilizations.

IV. Conclusion

The curricula prioritize the achievement of moral education as their core and study tours as their mainstay, guiding students to explore and collaborate in their learning endeavors. By fully integrating the natural,

geographical, cultural and historical resources of the Yellow River, we have created a curricular system centered on study tours based on the Yellow River culture. The curricula emphasize safety, realism, practice and experience, while focusing on subject integration and independent exploration. They encourage multipartite participation and open teaching methods, striving to foster an engaging and stimulating learning environment. Additionally, they prioritize phased planning tailored to local conditions. The overarching goal of this construction is to empower students to comprehend the spiritual essence of the Yellow River culture through exploration, fostering a correct worldview and values, enhancing teamwork and cooperation, nurturing critical thinking and innovation abilities, and laying a solid foundation for their future endeavors.

References

- Jin Yifei, Wang Xiaobing, Zhou Zhiyang, et al. Research on the integrated development of Yellow River culture and research and travel in Henan Province [J]. *Tourism Review*, 2022, (18):79-82.
- Ji Junchang. Weaving the magnificent "red carpet" of Lide and people [J]. *People's Education*, 2019, (23):61-63.
- Xu Xiutan, Hao Peipei, Ma Shengjun. Integration of Yellow River culture into high school ideological and political teaching and practical strategies [J]. *Tianjin Education*, 2023, (16):120-122.