

Cultural Memory and Life Education: Research on the Educational Value and Inheritance Path of the Funeral Lusheng Music of the Mengdou Branch of the Miao Nationality in Houshan Township, Northern Guizhou

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Abstract: Under the dual background of rural cultural revitalization and the protection of intangible cultural heritage of ethnic minorities, the traditional ritual music of ethnic minorities is not only an artistic carrier, but also a living educational resource carrying ethnic memory, ethical norms and life values. The funeral lusheng music of the Mengdou branch of the Miao nationality in Houshan Township, northern Guizhou, integrates ethnic history, folk beliefs and artistic expression, with unique educational connotations. Based on field investigation, literature research and case analysis, this paper sorts out the cultural characteristics of the music, explores its values of life education, ethical education, cultural identity and rural aesthetic education, and analyzes the dilemmas such as the fault of inheritance subjects, the absence of school education, the weakening of cultural ecology and the insufficient guarantee mechanism. This paper puts forward inheritance paths from four aspects: school-based curriculum, collaboration of inheritors, home-school-community linkage and policy support, providing a reference for integrating rural intangible cultural heritage into the education system and protecting the root of national culture.

Keywords: Mengdou Branch of the Miao Nationality; Funeral Lusheng Music; Life Education; Cultural Inheritance; Rural Education

1. Introduction

The traditional music of ethnic minorities is a core part of intangible cultural heritage in China, carrying the historical memory and values of ethnic groups, and an important carrier of local culture. With the advancement of the rural

cultural revitalization strategy, integrating the excellent national culture into national education has become a key path for the activation of intangible cultural heritage. The Mengdou branch of the Miao nationality living in Houshan Township, Zunyi, northern Guizhou, has preserved a complete tradition of funeral lusheng music. This music runs through the whole funeral process, combining artistic aesthetics and social education functions, and is the core symbol of the branch culture.

In the process of modernization, population outflow, changes in young people's cultural concepts and simplification of traditional rituals have put the funeral lusheng music of the Mengdou branch of the Miao nationality in a crisis of aging inheritors, lost skills and dissolution of cultural connotations. At the same time, its educational value has been ignored for a long time, not included in the local rural education system, and cultural inheritance is seriously disconnected from school education.

At present, most scholars study the form and protection of ethnic minority ritual music from the perspective of ethnomusicology, and rarely explore its educational function from the dimension of pedagogy. Interdisciplinary research on the Mengdou branch of the Miao nationality in northern Guizhou is even scarcer. Based on this, from the cross perspective of pedagogy and ethnomusicology, this paper systematically explains the educational value of funeral lusheng music, solves the dilemma of inheritance, and provides theoretical and practical support for the educational inheritance of rural intangible cultural heritage.

This paper adopts three research methods: first, field investigation method, which goes deep into Houshan Township to interview inheritors of intangible cultural heritage, rural cadres and teachers and students, records the ritual process and lusheng music form, and obtains first-hand

data; second, literature research method, which sorts out relevant documents of ethnic music, life education and rural education to lay a theoretical foundation; third, case analysis method, which draws on practical cases of ethnic minority intangible cultural heritage education to construct a localized inheritance path.

2. Cultural Picture of the Funeral Lusheng Music of the Mengdou Branch of the Miao Nationality in Houshan Township

Houshan Township is located in the mountainous area of northern Guizhou, with a primitive and complete cultural ecology. As a unique branch, the Mengdou branch of the Miao nationality has a strong ethnic cohesion and abide by family ethics and traditional folk customs. Living in the mountains, the branch has formed the cultural characteristics of revering nature, remembering ancestors and attaching importance to rituals. As an important life ritual, funeral is the core scene of ethnic cultural performance, emotional connection and concept transmission, and lusheng music is the soul of the ritual.

The funeral of the Mengdou branch of the Miao nationality includes five links: obituary, encoffining, memorial service, funeral procession and burial. Each link is matched with a special lusheng tune, with a steady and simple melody and regular and solemn rhythm. There is no fixed score, and it is completely passed down from generation to generation by inheritors through oral teaching. In the ritual, lusheng music has both practical and spiritual functions: practically, it serves as a ritual signal to guide the process; spiritually, it is regarded as a medium connecting the deceased and ancestors, sustenance the grief of the ethnic group and conveying ethnic rules.

The cultural core of funeral lusheng music is reflected in three dimensions: first, the carrier of historical memory, recording the migration and life stories of the ethnic group, which is an oral ethnic history book; second, the expression of life concept, conveying the simple idea of conforming to nature, facing death squarely and revering life; third, maintaining ethical order, strengthening the behavioral norms of family unity, respecting the elders and caring for the young, and living in harmony with neighbors. This living cultural carrier completes intergenerational education in an immersive ritual scene and is a natural educational resource

in rural society.

3. Multi-Dimensional Educational Value of the Funeral Lusheng Music of the Mengdou Branch of the Miao Nationality

3.1 Value of Life Education: Filling the Gap of Rural Life Education

The funeral lusheng music of the Mengdou branch of the Miao nationality is a localized life education textbook, which effectively makes up for the lack of rural life education. In the ritual, lusheng music creates a solemn atmosphere, guiding people to face death squarely, eliminate fear and taboo of death, and understand the finiteness and preciousness of life. At the same time, the music conveys the concept of "eternal blood and spiritual inheritance", guiding young people to establish the values of cherishing life, respecting elders and inheriting family traditions. Compared with classroom preaching, it is more infectious and localized.

3.2 Value of Ethical Education: Maintaining the Moral Order of Rural Society

Ethical education is the core function of the funeral lusheng music of the Mengdou branch of the Miao nationality. In the ritual scene, lusheng music cooperates with etiquette norms to convey the ethical criteria of respecting the old and loving the young, helping each other and ethnic unity to participants. Teenagers acquire moral norms intuitively and form behavioral consciousness in an immersive experience. At present, with the transformation of rural society and the weakening of traditional ethics, the music has become an important cultural carrier to maintain rural moral order and promote social harmony.

3.3 Value of Cultural Identity Education: Building Ethnic Cultural Self-confidence

Lusheng music is the core symbol of the identity of the Mengdou branch of the Miao nationality. By contacting and learning local ritual music, teenagers can deeply understand the history and cultural connotation of the branch, enhance their sense of cultural belonging and pride, and resist the impact of foreign cultures. Integrating it into the education system can help young people establish cultural self-confidence and consciously assume the responsibility of inheritance, which is a grass-roots practice to strengthen the sense of community of the

Chinese nation.

3.4 Value of Rural Aesthetic Education: Making up for the Shortage of Rural Aesthetic Education Resources

The funeral lusheng music of the Mengdou branch of the Miao nationality has a simple melody and sincere emotion, with unique aesthetic value, and is a high-quality resource for rural aesthetic education. At present, rural schools are short of aesthetic education teachers and equipment, while local lusheng music is easy to popularize and low in cost, which can enrich the content of aesthetic education. Through music appreciation and skill learning, teenagers' aesthetic perception can be improved, their local cultural emotion can be cultivated, and the goal of educating people with beauty and culture can be realized.

4. Practical Dilemmas in the Educational Inheritance of the Funeral Lusheng Music of the Mengdou Branch of the Miao nationality

4.1 Fault of Inheritance Subjects and Low Willingness of Young People to Inherit

The funeral lusheng music of the Mengdou branch of the Miao nationality relies on oral teaching. Most core inheritors are elderly, and the aging problem is prominent. Due to studying and working outside, young people are separated from the local cultural scene for a long time, lack of understanding of traditional music, and influenced by pop culture, they think funeral music is old and backward, and their willingness to inherit is generally low, forming an irreversible inheritance fault.

4.2 Absence of School Education and Unconstructed Curriculum System

Local primary and secondary schools focus on exam-oriented education, and local culture courses are missing for a long time. The lusheng music of the Mengdou branch of the Miao nationality is not included in the school-based curriculum system. Schools fail to play the main role of education, and teenagers lack systematic learning channels; at the same time, rural teachers lack professional literacy of ethnic music and folk culture, and are unable to carry out teaching, leading to the idleness of high-quality cultural resources.

4.3 Weakening Cultural Ecology and

Shrinking Living Space

Modern lifestyle has changed rural folk traditions. The funeral rituals of the Mengdou branch of the Miao nationality have been continuously simplified, and the application scenarios of lusheng music have been greatly reduced. Network culture and pop culture occupy the cultural life of teenagers, the attraction of traditional music continues to decline, the cultural ecology continues to deteriorate, and the soil for inheritance is lost.

4.4 Insufficient Guarantee Mechanism and Weak Policy and Financial Support

The special protection policies and funds for the funeral lusheng music of the Mengdou branch of the Miao nationality are seriously insufficient. Digital recording, inheritor subsidies, school-based curriculum development and other work progress slowly. Lacking the collaborative guarantee of the government, schools and society, relying only on folk spontaneous inheritance, sustainable development is difficult to achieve.

5. Practical Paths for the Educational Inheritance of the Funeral Lusheng Music of the Mengdou Branch of the Miao nationality

5.1 Develop School-based Curriculum and Integrate into School Education System

Taking local primary and secondary schools as the core, develop characteristic school-based courses of the funeral lusheng music of the Mengdou branch of the Miao nationality, set up three modules: cultural theory, music appreciation and skill practice, compile simple localized teaching materials, integrate life education, ethical education and aesthetic education into the curriculum, and realize two-way empowerment of cultural inheritance and moral education.

5.2 Introduce and Cultivate Inheritance Subjects and Build a Collaborative Teaching Mode

Hire local lusheng inheritors as part-time counselors to carry out regular teaching and performance activities on campus; establish a collaborative mechanism of "inheritors + full-time teachers", inheritors are responsible for skill teaching, and teachers are responsible for cultural interpretation, complementing each other's advantages. At the same time, implement

labor subsidies for inheritors to stimulate teaching enthusiasm.

5.3 Build a Linkage Platform and Promote Home-School-Community Collaborative Education

Schools hold lusheng cultural festivals and folk performances; families encourage teenagers to participate in traditional funeral rituals and feel the cultural atmosphere; communities carry out intangible cultural heritage experience activities relying on cultural auditoriums, build a comprehensive education scene and strengthen the effect of cultural infiltration.

5.4 Improve the Guarantee Mechanism and Strengthen Policy and Resource Support

Local governments include it in key projects of intangible cultural heritage protection and rural education, increase capital investment, and build a digital music resource library; education departments include intangible cultural heritage education in school assessment, promote curriculum implementation, and provide stable policy and resource guarantee for educational inheritance.

6. Conclusion

The funeral lusheng music of the Mengdou branch of the Miao nationality in Houshan Township, northern Guizhou, is a typical sample of the integration of ethnic minority intangible cultural heritage and rural education. It has artistic value and multi-dimensional educational values such as life education, ethical cultivation, cultural identity and rural aesthetic education. Under the impact of modernization, the music faces multiple dilemmas such as the fault of inheritance subjects, the absence of school education, the weakening of cultural ecology and the insufficient guarantee mechanism, and its cultural value needs to be activated urgently. Integrating funeral lusheng music into the rural education system and building a four-in-one

inheritance path of school-based curriculum, inheritance subjects, collaborative platform and guarantee mechanism can not only protect the root of ethnic minority intangible cultural heritage, but also enrich the connotation of rural education and help rural cultural revitalization. In the future, we should continue to promote the in-depth integration of national ritual music and contemporary education, so that local culture can be rejuvenated in educational inheritance.

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