Study on the Systematic Evaluation of the Management of Art Societies for Vocational College Students

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Abstract. There are certain issues in the current management of interest-oriented art clubs for college students. For instance, the school exercises absolute control over the management, treating students as mere subjects of management. To address these problems, this paper employs research methods such as literature review, surveys, and interviews. By reviewing literature related to aesthetic education and conducting a questionnaire survey and interviews with members of university art clubs, we aim to gain an understanding of the current situation, identify existing problems, and determine possible reasons for these management issues. Based on the data collected from the survey and interviews, we propose systematic and scientific suggestions for the management of university art clubs. The findings reveal that college students generally express a high level of satisfaction with art clubs or symphony orchestras, and the overall evaluation is positive. However, there are still some issues concerning managerial awareness, teacher allocation and professional competence, management mechanisms, club activity arrangements, as well as funding and manpower investment. Therefore, we recommend enhancing teacher training to improve their professional competence and skills.

1 Introduction

University student clubs are specialized non-profit organizations that have a significant impact on students' growth and development. They serve a crucial role in promoting campus cultural construction, enhancing the quality of education, and guiding ideology and politics [1]. As an integral part of the extracurricular system, university art clubs play a vital role in fostering campus cultural development and improving students' overall literacy. Conducting a thorough exploration of the management practices of university art clubs and clarifying their future direction holds immense theoretical and practical significance. It will contribute to strengthening and improving the functioning of university art clubs, enabling them to better fulfill their intended purposes.

There have been significant achievements in the research on college student associations, but it is important to note that this research is based on a high degree of student autonomy, highlighting the subjectivity of students. The spirit of advocating autonomy in these associations is closely linked to the values of freedom and equality advocated by capitalism [2-3]. Furthermore, research on the construction model of university student clubs has showcased their charm and advantages, but there are also limitations to consider. Currently, the research on student clubs in Chinese universities primarily focuses on three levels. First, there is pure theoretical research that explores club construction and management models, mainly studying student clubs as a campus cultural phenomenon [4]. Second, empirical research involves designing survey questions to understand the issues in the management of university clubs, identifying the underlying causes, and proposing effective solutions. Lastly, there is a comparative perspective that examines the similarities and differences in the management of student clubs in Chinese and foreign universities, although there is relatively little research in this area.

The current academic research on the construction and management of university art clubs for college students indicates that there is more focus on educational functions, with less emphasis on political and social functions. Additionally, there is a greater amount of scattered research and less systematic research [5]. There is also a tendency for more practical experience to be introduced, while theoretical refinement and analysis are less common. Furthermore, there is more research on school party and youth league organization cadres, while other subjects receive less attention.

With the proposal of the theory of socialism with Chinese characteristics and the Chinese Dream, as well as the deepening of the socialist market economy system in China and its impact on social life, new situations and trends have emerged. These include the gradual increase of online clubs, the rise of cross-school clubs, and the close integration of clubs with social activities [6-7]. However, compared to the rapidly developing club practice, theoretical research on college student clubs still lags behind and is insufficient. This critical situation calls for a prompt response and answer from the theoretical community.

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To address the aforementioned limitations, this study conducted empirical re-search and theoretical analysis on the management of university art clubs. Statistical analysis software, SPSS, was utilized for data analysis, specifically focusing on the organizational structure, daily activities, and roles of art clubs. Field investigations were also conducted to gather insights from students of different grades regarding their attitudes and suggestions towards the management of art clubs. Additionally, semi-structured interviews were conducted to gain a preliminary understanding of the institutional construction and implementation effectiveness of art clubs in ordinary universities. Moreover, interviews were conducted with teaching management experts, teachers, and college students to gather their perspectives, opinions, and suggestions.

2 Methodology

2.1 Self-organization theory

The theory of self-organization encompasses three main components: dissipative structure theory, synergy theory, and catastrophe theory. However, the fundamental concepts and theoretical essence can be adequately covered by dissipative structure theory and synergy. Dissipative structure theory primarily explores the exchange of material and energy between a system and its environment, as well as the influence on self-organizing systems. Synergy theory focuses on the collaborative mechanisms among different elements within a system, emphasizing that the cooperation between these elements forms the basis of self-organizing processes. The competition and collaboration effects among the order parameters within the system directly contribute to the emergence of new structures.

The theory of mutation is based on stability theory, which posits that the process of mutation involves transitioning from a stable state to a new stable state through an unstable state. Mathematically, this process is characterized by changes in the parameters and function values of the system state. According to the theory of mutation, even for the same process and corresponding to the critical value of the same control factor, mutations can still result in different outcomes. These outcomes can lead to several distinct new steady states, each with a certain probability.

2.2 Governance Theory

The governance theory, with the essential goal of enhancing public interest, has developed a series of theoretical systems aimed at enhancing governance effectiveness or reducing governance failure while maintaining its core values. These theoretical systems include “meta governance” theory, “good governance” theory, holistic governance theory, and network governance theory.

The first theory is meta governance, which suggests that the effectiveness of governance relies on the establishment of a relationship of mutual trust and shared risk-taking among the government, market, and society. Sustained interaction between these entities is crucial in determining governance effectiveness, and they should work together to prevent governance failure. The second theory is good governance, also known as effective governance. It encompasses elements such as the rule of law, administrative management effectiveness, accountability, and political transparency. Good governance is characterized by collaborative governance between the government and citizens based on public interests, with civil society as the practical foundation. The third theory is holistic governance, which addresses the problems of decentralization, partialization, and fragmentation in the management of market competition mechanisms. Some experts and scholars have criticized the theory of new public management and advocated for reliance on information technology and the establishment of a coordinated and integrated multi-party coordination mechanism. The fourth theory is governance network theory, which focuses on the complexity, interdependence, and dynamic mechanisms in public services. It aims to combine the resources, skills, and goals of public services to create a long-term autonomous network.

2.3 Voluntary Failure Theory

The theory of voluntary failure was proposed by the famous Salamon, which refers to the phenomenon where individual or collective voluntary non-governmental organizations encounter various problems in the operation of their volunteer activities, making them unable to proceed normally. The theory of voluntary failure mainly includes four aspects.

There are several major shortcomings in non-governmental organizations, one of which is the lack of charity. There is a significant disparity between the expenses required for non-governmental organization activities and the resources that can be raised. Non-governmental organizations utilize various resources to generate public goods, including social donations, government funding, and fees.

Secondly, non-governmental organizations often adopt a paternalistic style, where those who control economic resources have a greater influence over their utilization. Their decision-making processes often disregard the opinions of the majority and lack accountability and monitoring from the public.

The third limitation is the amateur nature of non-governmental organizations. Non-governmental organizations place a strong emphasis on volunteerism and rely heavily on the work of caring volunteers. However, this emphasis on volunteerism can inevitably affect organizational performance and the quality of service products.

The fourth limitation pertains to the target audience of non-governmental organizations. As mentioned earlier, as a supplement to government failures, non-governmental organizations often focus their activities on specific social groups, such as particular
races, religions, residents of specific regions, genders, and age groups.

2.4 Study Object

The art club of M University has a rich history, dating back to the establishment of the choir in 1988. Since then, the school has expanded its offerings to include various art forms such as the folk orchestra, symphony, street dance club, and dancing club. Currently, there are over thirty art clubs in the university, with a total membership exceeding 1000 students. Each year, the art clubs organize more than 30 activities with professional art themes, fostering a vibrant artistic community on campus. Additionally, the clubs regularly engage in art exchange activities, promoting communication and the appreciation of art among members.

Managed by a specialized department, M University's art troupe enjoys several advantages over other art clubs in terms of faculty, venue, and funding. The troupe with the highest level of members is fortunate to have multiple professional teachers providing guidance. Furthermore, students have the opportunity to join the university's art troupe through a selective process. As a result, the current management status of M University's art troupe is highly commendable.

3 Results and Discussion

3.1 Statistical characteristics of the Art Club of M University

Based on the specific circumstances and initial preparations, this study conducted a random selection of college students from M University, distributing 135 questionnaires. A total of 125 questionnaires were collected, with 120 of them being deemed valid. The response rate and effective rate were calculated at 92.59% and 96% respectively. Subsequently, the collected data was entered and organized, and SPSS software was utilized for classification and statistical analysis. Additionally, interviews were conducted with one department head, four guidance teachers, and three students. The basic information of the survey respondents is presented in Table 1.

Table 1. Population statistics of survey respondents.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Amount</th>
<th>Percent, %</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Gender</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Male</td>
<td>90</td>
<td>75</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Female</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grade</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grade 1</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>7.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grade 2</td>
<td>83</td>
<td>69.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grade 3</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grade 4</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>3.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Major</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>engineering course</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>20.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>science</td>
<td>78</td>
<td>65</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>economic management</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>8.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>humanity</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>5.8</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Among the surveyed participants, 45 individuals (37.5%) have participated in art clubs, while 75 individuals (62.5%) have not. Out of the 120 respondents, 25 are members of the school symphony orchestra, accounting for 20.8%, while the remaining 95 individuals (79.2%) are not members of the orchestra.

Regarding the investigation into the current situation, the questionnaire section also includes questions about college students’ subjective feelings towards art orchestras. This mainly focuses on their satisfaction with art orchestras through five questions: "Are you interested in art clubs?" and "Are you satisfied with the activities organized by the school symphony orchestra?". For the question "Are you interested in art clubs?", a rating scale is used, where 1 represents "not interested", 2 represents "somewhat interested", 3 represents "interested", and 4 represents "very interested". The other four questions are rated on a scale of 1 to 5, with 1 representing "very poor or very dissatisfied", 2 representing "not very good or not very satisfied", 3 representing "average", 4 representing "good or satisfied", and 5 representing "very good or very satisfied". In these questions, a higher number indicates a higher level of interest or satisfaction. The mean and standard deviation of the responses are presented in Table 2.

Table 2. Basic Statistics of Subjective Perceptions of Art Clubs by College Students

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Mean</th>
<th>Standard deviation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Are you interested in art clubs?</td>
<td>3.08</td>
<td>0.78</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Are you satisfied with the activities organized by the school symphony orchestra?</td>
<td>4.72</td>
<td>0.45</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Are you satisfied with the activities organized by the band meeting your expectations?</td>
<td>4.65</td>
<td>0.48</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Are you satisfied with the activities organized by the band?</td>
<td>4.67</td>
<td>0.47</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Do you think the band attracts audiences</td>
<td>4.79</td>
<td>0.41</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Based on Table 2, it is evident that the overall mean for the surveyed college students is 4.38. This mean is calculated based on the five items related to interest, quality of activities organized by the band, and satisfaction with the activities. The high interest value of 3.075 indicates that college students not only have a thirst for professional learning but also a spiritual pursuit of art and a desire for elegance. The average quality, expected value, satisfaction, and attractiveness of the school orchestra activities range from 4.6417 to 4.7917, which suggests that the N University Symphony Orchestra has generally developed well and is widely recognized by students.
3.2 Current Situation of Art Club Management

One of the main reasons why college students withdraw from or have already withdrawn from clubs is time conflicts, which is closely related to the academic pressure students face, especially in majors focused on science and engineering. Students prioritize their professional learning, which explains their limited availability for club activities. In the questionnaire, when asked about the most important things they pay attention to during their four years in university, 63.33% of students believe that learning professional knowledge is their second priority, followed by learning humanistic knowledge and improving cultural literacy. This places higher demands on the development of clubs and the cultivation of students' comprehensive qualities (Fig. 1a).

The standardization of the system is a crucial factor in assessing the quality of an organization. Therefore, it is crucial to establish clear and comprehensive institutional norms to strengthen organizational management. Additionally, scientific management, the social influence of clubs, and the importance attached to them by schools also significantly impact the development of art clubs. This highlights the need for meticulous and targeted management of art clubs in universities, with a clear understanding of their strengths and weaknesses, and the implementation of relevant measures to address them (Fig. 1b).

3.3 Effectiveness of Art Club Management

From the perspective of students' educational needs for universities (Fig. 2), the highest demand is for rich campus cultural activities, followed by social skills. The education on social skills aligns with the support provided by art clubs in helping college students with their interpersonal communication. This further emphasizes the high demand among college students for social skills, and suggests that practical activities within club activities can help meet these needs. Furthermore, it provides insights for the management of art clubs. Club managers not only need to focus on the professional development of the club, but also on the interpersonal environment and cultural atmosphere of the club.

Fig. 1. (a) Reasons for college students leaving or having already left the group. (b) The self factors influencing the development of art clubs.

Fig. 2. Ranking of Strengthening Education Types among College Students

M University has recently implemented significant reforms in the education and teaching of art clubs. These reforms grant students the autonomy to choose their own textbooks and courses, enabling them to participate more actively and consciously in the learning process of art clubs. This approach ensures that students can complete various art club courses with greater efficiency. Students are encouraged to integrate this knowledge into their daily lives and academic pursuits, transforming art into not only a form of expression but also a way of life.

4 Conclusions

The development of student clubs in ordinary universities in our country is crucial for the progress of higher education. Art clubs, as an important component and backbone of campus cultural construction and second classroom development, have a significant impact on various aspects of campus cultural construction and the overall direction of the campus. The development and management of art clubs have been evaluated positively by college students, as indicated by the survey and interview results from N University. The N University Symphony Orchestra, in particular, has received high ratings and widespread recognition from students, regardless of gender or membership in the orchestra. This positive outcome can be attributed to the effective governance methods employed by the N Grand Symphony Orchestra. These methods, which are guided by scientific management concepts, leverage student autonomy and participation abilities, and foster strong two-way cooperation between teachers and students.

References


