Research on the Innovation of Dormitory Culture Construction in Universities in the New Era

Junsheng Yu[1,2]*

1.Qingdao Film Academy

2.City University Malaysia

Abstract

This paper analyzes the connotations and functions of dormitory culture in universities under the background of the new era, recognizing the importance and urgency of innovating dormitory culture construction in higher education. Based on this understanding, the paper explores innovative approaches to constructing dormitory culture in the new era from four aspects: improving dormitory management service systems, setting examples through student leaders and Party members, establishing dormitory culture exchange platforms, and creating outstanding dormitory culture projects. These approaches are discussed in light of the basic requirements for strengthening cultural soft power, promoting information technology development, and emphasizing the educational value of culture.

Keywords: New era; Universities; Dormitory culture; Construction innovation

Dormitory culture is an integral part of campus culture in universities, encapsulating and reflecting the values, intellectual level, political qualities, moral standards, and aesthetic interests of students. In the context of the new era, how to create a distinctive dormitory culture brand, leverage the advantages of the internet to cultivate a strong cultural atmosphere, and enhance the educational value of culture to guide students' holistic development have become pressing issues for dormitory culture construction and innovation. Currently, the diverse lifestyles of university students present more varied challenges for education and ideological guidance. Universities must deeply understand the connotations of dormitory culture, grasp its basic functions and particularities, and fully recognize the importance and urgency of its construction and innovation. This requires adopting new ideas, methods, concepts, and channels to carry out dormitory culture-related work, using dormitory culture to enrich students' inner lives and promote their growth and development.

I. Connotations and Functions of University Dormitory Culture in the New Era

Dormitories are one of the main spaces for students to rest, entertain, study, and socialize. In the new era, the cultural connotations and extensions of dormitories have been enriched, playing an irreplaceable role in higher education.

Connotations of University Dormitory Culture in the New Era

From the perspective of the new era, university dormitory culture refers to the comprehensive spiritual atmosphere, cultural phenomena, and material environment that are naturally generated and collectively created by dormitory members through various activities such as living, studying, entertaining, socializing, and working. As an organic part of campus culture, dormitory culture shares common characteristics with overall campus culture but also has its particularities due to differences in space and community. In terms of connotation, university dormitory culture encompasses:

1. **Material culture**, which is reflected in the physical environment of the dormitory and its surroundings, including student living areas, infrastructure, and spatial layout, representing the material form of dormitory culture.
2. **Institutional culture**, consisting of a series of rules and behavioral norms established by universities for dormitory life and environment, providing regulations and guidelines for dormitory members.
3. **Behavioral culture**, which emerges from the long-term collective living experience, manifested in distinct lifestyles, daily routines, and interaction patterns specific to each dormitory.
4. **Spiritual culture**, which encompasses the values, cognitive beliefs, mental outlook, and aesthetic pursuits exhibited by dormitory members in various activities.

Functions of University Dormitory Culture in the New Era

In a broad sense, culture refers to the integrated lifestyle, aesthetic interests, and values formed by a community within a specific region. Dormitory culture in universities is the set of behavioral norms, moral standards, and living-learning atmosphere created by dormitory members through their shared experiences and activities. A positive dormitory culture can enhance students' sense of belonging and identification with the campus and dormitory life, foster a sense of collective honor, and strengthen the unity and cohesion among dormitory members.

Additionally, as students engage in sincere communication and interaction within a supportive dormitory environment, they are more likely to help each other and express their feelings, promoting appreciation and understanding of others'

qualities. Dormitory culture can also help regulate students' psychological and emotional well-being, allowing them to feel warmth and care within the dormitory community. This contributes to shaping correct values, cultivating character, and establishing healthy learning and lifestyle habits.

Furthermore, dormitory culture provides a platform and space for the exchange and collision of creative ideas and diverse viewpoints, enabling students to access information from different dimensions and break the "information silo" effect. This process aids in shaping well-rounded personalities and improving students' social adaptability.

II. Issues in University Dormitory Culture

- **Survey on the Current Status of University Dormitories**

A total of 600 questionnaires were distributed, with 580 returned, and 572 valid responses, resulting in a 95.33% validity rate. The questionnaire primarily consisted of single-choice and multiple-choice questions. The respondents were between the ages of 18 and 21, with females making up 64% and males 36% of the participants, indicating that the proportion of female respondents was approximately 28% higher than that of male respondents. The questions with the highest response frequency were Questions 5, 6, 9, and 10. The next steps involve organizing and further investigating the key concerns reflected in the responses.

Interview Outline

User Interview Outline
Topics related to dormitory culture construction:

- **What suggestions do you have for improving the dormitory management service system in universities?**
- **What are your views on the dormitory management work carried out by student cadres?**
- **What ideas do you have for dormitory culture construction within the apartment?**
- **Dormitory culture should encompass both "inside the dormitory" and "outside the dormitory." What is your opinion on this?**
- **In your view, what are the key responsibilities of student cadres and Party members in the apartment?**
- **Which activities do you think play a positive role in dormitory culture construction?**

Interview Analysis

The walk-through interviews conducted with students in dormitories gathered feedback on their suggestions and concerns. The information was collected and processed, and ten

students with prominent issues were selected for in-depth interviews, including six females and four males. During these interviews, the issues covered in the questionnaire were revisited. The summarized responses from the ten interviewed students are as follows:

(1) Limited communication with dormitory counselors, and uncertainty about how to express their needs to them.
(2) Doubts about the effectiveness of the student cadre teams.
(3) Feeling of unfamiliarity between different dormitories and a lack of study spaces in the dormitories.
(4) Inability to capture the "external culture" of the dormitory.

The results of the walk-through research in student apartments, combined with the university's actual situation, summarized the practical issues in dormitory culture construction in universities.

III. Innovative Approaches to University Dormitory Culture Construction in the New Era

The rich connotations and extended functions of dormitory culture in the new era, along with its strong regulating and guiding roles, determine the importance of dormitory culture construction and innovation. Therefore, universities need to adopt new concepts and ideas to renew the appeal of dormitory culture and use it to guide students towards comprehensive and harmonious development.

- **Improving the Dormitory Management Service System**

The comprehensive quality of dormitory management personnel and the service level of dormitory management play a decisive role in the innovation of dormitory culture construction. Strong dormitory management service support can enhance students' sense of belonging to the dormitory and foster a vibrant atmosphere centered on collective interests, promoting a commitment to maintaining a high-quality dormitory environment. As the main body of dormitory management services, counselors should enhance their theoretical knowledge and professional skills, fully recognizing their responsibilities and functions in dormitory culture construction and reform. Moreover, they should engage deeply with the actual dormitory environment, establish equal and harmonious communication with students, understand students' thoughts, mental health, personal development levels, and psychological needs, and actively optimize and improve student work forms. Flexible management approaches can be used to awaken students' internal pursuits of truth, goodness, and beauty, adherence to moral standards, and solve problems related to dormitory life and study together with students. This approach can encourage students to open up, integrate into the group, study diligently, and pursue personal development.

- **Setting Examples through Student Cadres and Party Members**

Student cadres and Party members are the "two wings" of innovative dormitory culture construction in universities. Their academic excellence, active thinking, advanced ideas, and firm beliefs make them role models and leaders among students. Fully leveraging the strengths of student cadres and Party members to demonstrate their intellectual level, political qualities, and moral integrity can greatly benefit the innovation of dormitory culture. To achieve this, student cadres and Party members can undergo concentrated training to enhance their sense of responsibility and leadership role. In the dormitory, they can be guided to take the lead in creating a positive environment by setting differentiated and hierarchical dormitory evaluation standards based on the conditions of different dormitories, the characteristics of student groups, and their academic disciplines. Regular evaluations can include titles like "Civilized Dormitory," "Outstanding Dormitory," and "Innovative Dormitory," encouraging student cadres and Party members to lead in establishing a good quality dormitory environment and cultural atmosphere, thereby gradually forming a positive, upward, and healthy dormitory culture.

- **Establishing a Dormitory Culture Exchange Platform**

In the context of the new era, the rapid development of internet, cloud computing, and new media technologies provides convenience for students' online learning, social interactions, and exploratory practices while also bringing risks such as ideological infiltration, cultural erosion, and the influx of harmful ideas, which pose significant challenges to dormitory culture and ideological education in universities. To enhance students' critical thinking skills, guide them to view social phenomena rationally and objectively, correct ideological deviations, and lead the development of students' moral values, it is necessary to leverage the internet to establish an educational presence online and take the lead in occupying the online educational space. This can be achieved by creating a dormitory culture exchange platform that fosters a healthy, open, and shared dormitory culture atmosphere. For example, an online feedback space for dormitory management services can be set up to encourage students to contribute suggestions on dormitory management policies and operational methods, thus stimulating students' sense of ownership and activating their initiative to maintain dormitory order and comply with dormitory behavioral norms. Another example is the launch of a "Most Beautiful Dormitory" column to showcase outstanding dormitories' environmental beauty, behavioral beauty, moral beauty, intellectual beauty, and mutual help, sparking a role-model effect across the campus and leading students to pursue a higher level of dormitory culture. Additionally, new media platforms can be used to share videos of student-favorite programs that embody positive social energy and core values, such as *National Treasure* and *My University Vlog*, where students can engage in discussions and exchange views, which will help deepen the integration of mainstream culture in university dormitories and guide students to co-create a positive and contemporary dormitory culture.

- **Creating a "Dormitory Culture Excellence Project"**

In the new era, university dormitory culture should not be confined to dormitories or campuses but should encourage students to step out into the broader natural world and real society, showcasing the new image and spirit of outstanding young people in the new era. This involves fostering confident, committed, and responsible students who can create distinctive, positive, and healthy dormitory cultures. The project can include three main initiatives:

- **"Love Project":** Encourage students to promote the spirit of dedication, solidarity, and mutual assistance by donating their books, clothes, and other items to children in impoverished areas, allowing students to experience their social value.
- **"Health Project"**: Guide students to engage in morning reading and jogging to cultivate physical and mental well-being and enhance their self-education abilities.
- **"Dream Building Project"**: Align students' personal aspirations with the Chinese Dream of national rejuvenation, guiding them to actively participate in seminars, "Building the Dream Together" (lectures by graduate students and outstanding alumni), and other activities, enabling students to draw strength from role models, achieve self-breakthroughs, and create a cooperative dormitory culture.

IV. Conclusion

Dormitory culture, created and shaped by students, is a form of advanced and excellent culture that functions to unite people, regulate emotions, and foster well-rounded personalities. In the context of the new era, the innovation of dormitory culture construction in universities requires starting from improving the dormitory management service system, setting examples through student cadres and Party members, establishing dormitory culture exchange platforms, and creating a "Dormitory Culture Excellence Project" to gradually develop a positive and healthy dormitory culture.

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