

Design and Application of Micro-Class in Construction of Preschool Education Courses in Colleges and Universities

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Abstract: In the past few years, all walks of the society have paid an increasing amount of attention to education. Though the main body in education is students, their study are performed under the guidance of the teachers, and therefore it seems that preschool education becomes especially important. At present, the new teaching concept of “micro-class” has been added to preschool education in colleges and universities in China, so as to help improve the variety and efficiency of class teaching. The paper intends to analyze the design of micro-class as well as its specific application according to the current special conditions of preschool education in China.

1. Introduction

The major of preschool education in colleges and universities is the cradling in cultivating preschool teachers and many colleges and universities are conducting educational reforms, hoping to cultivate excellent teachers with integrated development in educational methods, classroom design and other fields. The concept of “micro-class” has gradually been understood and comprehended by people as a new type of educational and teaching mode. The opinion of a micro-class is clear, its importance is well highlighted and it is short and dynamic. Because of such major features, micro-class has been widely spread and applied in the past few years. But what on earth is “micro-class” and what principles and methods shall be adhered to in the process of its design and application? In the following parts, the paper will analyze theses questions in details.

2. Significance of the application of micro-class in the major of preschool education in colleges and universities

Micro-class was applied in middle and primary school education from the beginning and people have drew certain amount of experience in its process of application. As the contents of micro-class is short and dynamic, it is able to stimulate the study enthusiasm of the students, demonstrate the major points and difficult points in study during the teaching process, enhance the students’ impression of the knowledge and then improve their learning efficiency. The information and technology in China is developing and perfecting and the coverage of Internet environment is gradually spreading; the application of such technological development to micro-class teaching can refine the teaching process and create certain degree of technological advantage. For example, the sharing function of WeChat is able to provide the students with more study opportunities. The application of micro-class in the major of preschool education in colleges and universities can improve the course design and integrate the application micro-class with preschool education. In this way, an increasing number of college students with more comprehensive abilities will be cultivated efficiently as the students from the major of preschool education in China will have higher ability to formulate micro-class online videos. The students from the major of preschool education in colleges and universities are going to become preschool teachers, i.e. the gardener of our future. It is not a simple matter of internship or training for students majoring in preschool education to grow from a student and reach the standard of a mature teacher, rather a long-term role transfer process is needed and the transfer of the role shall be realized by the students adequately that they are not a student any more but a preschool teacher who is supposed to teach knowledge and moral principles to the students. Therefore, the teachers shall implant such a role into the

students when conducting professional counseling for students majoring in preschool education and teach them to transfer their minds and remember the duties and responsibilities as a teacher. The formulation of micro-class online videos can help the students get access to the professional environment of a teacher in advance, grasp the important work contents as a teacher, and cultivate a profound understanding of the work as a preschool teacher in the future. Therefore it can be inferred that the application of micro-class teaching can help cultivate the professional values and concepts of the students majoring in preschool education in colleges and universities so that they will make preparations in advance to become an excellent teacher.

3. Advantages in the application of micro-class in the major of preschool education in colleges and universities

As a new generation of teaching technology, micro-class has a variety of functions and its major advantages in the teaching of preschool education are listed as follows:

(1) Micro-class technology is clearly targeted

The concept of being “micro” in micro-class refers to its short duration and it occupies only a few seconds in the teaching class. Therefore, the teacher shall choose the specific and targeted contents of the class, organize the major points and difficult points in an orderly manner and establish a new knowledge framework. In its common application, micro-class technology is usually applied during the lead-in process of the class. The practice shows that the attention of the students is highly focused during the first ten minutes of the class. Therefore, the practice of guiding the students to watch visualized knowledge videos which well demonstrate the key points and difficult points of the class can make an efficient use of this period of time, stimulate the learning motivation of the students in a targeted manner and make a breakthrough in the teaching of the key points and difficult points.

(2) Strong integrity of micro-class technology

Micro-class is highly integrated and its strong integrity is mainly demonstrated in the fact that it is based on the rich online resources and is able to integrate efficiently the knowledge that is not included in the textbook so as to enrich the knowledge learning experience of the students on class. What's more, its integrity can also be demonstrated in the effective introduction of life circumstances familiar to the students, which plays a prominent role in the construction of a good teaching environment. Micro-class can integrate from a deep level what is inside the textbook with what is outside, what is within life with what is outside as well as what is real with what is virtual, which bring an important improving influence on the teaching quality in class.

(3) Relatively high flexibility of micro-class technology

Micro-class technology is highly flexible and this feature is mainly demonstrated in the fact that it exists in the form of video courseware. As its contents are small and dynamic and occupy only a very small storage space, the downloading and storage are very convenient. Moreover, there are a variety of ways to store the micro-class courseware as it can not only be stored in the computer, but also in the mobile phone and tablet computer. With convenience and portability, the students are able to study at any time and in this way they will be able to lay a solid professional foundation and their self-study ability is cultivated.

4. Principles to be followed in micro-class designing

The major preschool education in colleges and universities is one with high practicalness. Micro-class teaching is advantageous in this aspect and it can improve the teaching effect of preschool education in colleges and universities. However, the construction of micro-class courses shall adhere to the following basic principles.

(1) Inspiring

Micro-class is mainly featured by its being “micro”, but the properties that a “class” is supposed to have shall not be omitted, such as professional knowledge education and inspiring teaching. For example, in a micro-class, the teacher can refer to the big class according to the teaching contents,

guide the students to make a connection with other knowledge with the method of imagination or inspire the students to associate to the reality for a better comprehension of the knowledge.

(2) Interesting

Micro-class is a new teaching pattern which is demonstrated to the students in the form of videos. It is, by itself, new and fresh and moreover all expression forms during the process of the course, from language to contents, are a form of creation, which will stimulate the interest of the students. However, a much high requirement is posed for the formulation of a micro-class and for the teacher so as to make the video interesting, knowledgeable and professional at the same time in a period as short as ten minutes.

(3) Practical

The ultimate goal of study is to apply what is learned on class to practice and this is especially true for preschool education majors. For this major, apart from the study of theoretical knowledge, the most important thing is to lay a solid foundation so that students majoring in preschool education will be able to walk on the stage and teach knowledge to their students. Therefore, the contents of micro-class teaching shall be practical.

5. Specific application of micro-class in the construction of preschool education in colleges and universities

(1) Stimulating the motivation of college students to study in the major of preschool education through micro-class

In the class teaching practice of the major of preschool education, it has long been a common practice that students are required to memorize mechanically the various kinds of knowledge points within the range of the major and the teaching process is singular and dulls, in which the teachers suffer a lot in their delivery of the knowledge and the students suffer also when accepting the knowledge and are tired to make any response as a result of the lack of mutual communication opportunities. Micro-class can realize the virtual effect through information technology, creating a simulating teaching situation and activating the abstract images and the static images. The whole process from courseware demonstration to the assessment and deliverance of the teacher and the coordination of the students is perfect, integrating pictures, cartoons, audios and videos. The teaching atmosphere is real and strong, the teaching contents are colorful and dynamic. The joyful and loose teaching atmosphere activate the vigor of the class teaching process so that the students learn in an easy and participated manner and they will have real emotional experience and adapt to the role quickly. The micro-class model of teaching can stimulate in a maximum way the study enthusiasm of the college students to learn the major preschool education and the teaching effect of professional course classes in preschool education is increased greatly. Compared with the traditional model of teaching, the application of micro-class helps change the lifeless condition of the teaching of major preschool education as the multimedia demonstrate the pictures and supporting labels of the teaching material by the way of image or video and the study situation becomes a brand new one. In this way, college students will naturally be able to have a deeper understanding of the properties of the concepts learned in class. Micro-class videos create an interesting atmosphere for the teaching class of the major preschool education and the college students will be able to acquire new knowledge and improve their ability in a relaxed study atmosphere.

(2) Highlighting key and difficult teaching points through micro-class

In the past, the most difficult part in the teaching of the major preschool education is knowledge teaching. From an objective perspective, knowledge learning is the most important sector in the study of this major as the accumulation of certain amount of knowledge is the precondition to display the learning level of the major and it is also a foundation for the communication of the major preschool education. Grasping certain amount of knowledge has huge influence on the professional ability in preschool education. As a result of the objective influence of the traditional model of teaching, it is difficult for students to learn knowledge, the professional knowledge in preschool education grasped by the students in their learning process is quite limited and they

cannot apply the knowledge flexibly and therefore it becomes even more difficult for the students to apply the professional knowledge of preschool education in their lives. Micro-class is a most efficient way to solve the problems mentioned above. To improve the effectiveness of micro-class teaching, we have to obtain a clear understanding of the psychological features of college students and take into consideration the professional knowledge training in preschool education as well as corresponding ability training when formulating the micro-class courseware. It is an efficient way to adopt micro-class in the accumulation of the teaching results as well as the enhancement of the observing and memorizing ability of college students. For example, in the teaching of knowledge related to children habit cultivation, the teacher can adopt the micro-class to explain and introduce in detail the great amount of knowledge in the class and demonstrate a mind mapping on the children habit development process and then the college students will find it easy to understand the habit developing routes with the help of the dynamic and vivid demonstration effect. Therefore, micro-class can not only help college students grasp the knowledge of the class and improve their abilities, but also help them enhance their practical ability.

(3) Enhancing interaction in class teaching through micro-class

Ability cultivation is very important in teaching activities of the major preschool education and the study environment is a critical factor. Therefore, it can be seen that the creation of a suitable study environment is especially important. Traditional teaching cannot provide a good study environment, while micro-class, as teaching supporting way, can provide a good context for college students as a result of its strong information handling ability and under such an environment the students will definitely take an active part in the class. As micro-class is adopted as a supporting way to aid the professional teaching of preschool education, the teacher withdraws from the subject position and the ability cultivation contents become the focus of study for college students, with a variety of negative factors eliminated. Micro-class aided teaching requires the teacher to have a detailed grasp of the teaching contents and they shall be very familiar with the teaching contents as well. Micro-class is very suitable for the teaching organization in colleges and universities as it is suitable for the acceptance ability of the college students and the teaching environment and atmosphere is very strong in the professional teaching of preschool education. What's more, micro-class aided teaching solves the problem of rigid interaction between the teacher and the students and its teaching contents are vivid; it is able to stimulate the strong functions of the college students' different organs and their initiative to study and participate in the activities is stimulated totally.

Moreover, the huge amount of information and vivid audio-visual effect can not only enhance the frequency and effect of the interaction between the teacher and the students, but also help the college students improve their flexibility in response and activeness of the mind. For example, the creation of a teaching situation in the form of a micro-class according to the contents of the text can drive the college students to hold communication and discussion according to the contents of the pictures and videos and study the text by themselves. Under the influence of the created situation in the micro-class, the college students will have more heated group discussion and communication.

(4) Cultivating independent study ability of college students through micro-class

Traditional model of teaching has advantage in getting the students to obtain the professional knowledge of preschool education and finish the professional exercise tasks of preschool education. However, under the new historical condition, it is impossible for the teachers of the major preschool education to have sufficient time to accompany the students to read and memorize the professional concepts and other knowledge of the major preschool education as a result of the limitation of the the teaching conditions, and therefore it becomes a must to enhance the professional exercise of preschool education, cultivate the independent study ability of the students and improve the teaching efficiency in class. Therefore, the teacher shall make every effort to design and formulate the micro-class courseware before hand, of which the contents shall be helpful to the self study of the students. For example, we play the professional micro-class video on the major preschool education which is prepared beforehand in the study process. When playing the professional micro-class video on the major preschool education, the teacher shall guide the students to do

exercises with the micro-class courseware and the screen shall display the contents on the major preschool education to be studied. Therefore, the teacher is supposed to set in advance the study contents on the major preschool education and pay attention to the spelling, reading, exploration, checking, etc. Micro-class aided teaching can not only increase the teaching capacity in the major preschool education, but also play a promotional role in the cultivation of the independent study ability of the students.

6. Conclusion

Micro-class aided teaching in the major preschool education has a high requirement for the teacher to grasp modern technology. Only when the teachers continuously improve their skill in micro-class teaching of the major preschool education, could they be able to make the most of the advantages of micro-class aided teaching in the major preschool education and to greatly enhance the teaching effectiveness.

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