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CORRELATION ANALYSIS ON THE AWARENESS AND EDUCATIONAL ACTIVITIES OF CHINESE OPERA SONG, “XIGE (戏歌)”

Yoon Yang, PhD

Department Music Technology, The Graduate School,

Sangmyung University, Republic of Korea

E-mail: 52285889@qq.com

Seungyon-Seny Lee*

Professor, Department Music Technology, The Graduate School of Culture Technology,

Sangmyung University, Republic of Korea

E-mail: senylee01@gmail.com

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Abstract

One of the reasons that Xige’s singing methods and direction techniques are complicated is that they require Chinese opera song singing techniques, and the other reason is the necessity of reflecting Chinese traditional culture awareness. It is therefore recommended that Xige education be taught by professional teachers in special educational institutions. Considering this point, this study conducted a survey of music major teachers at universities in China. The study questions were seven in total, with the variables of teachers’ awareness of Xige, teaching methods, availability of application methods. They were used in teachers’ preferences and value differentiation for the purpose of determining if there was a correlation between them. In the result, there was an opinion that Xige teaching methods should include a consideration of the value of traditional arts. It was revealed that the more preferences Xige teachers have, the higher their value differentiation. In this context, six of the seven hypotheses were accepted, while a single hypothesis regarding the relationship between teachers’ teaching methods and value differentiation was rejected. This means that teachers could struggle to

coordinate many factors of singing methods of plays to create Xige. This finding may be significant in the field of traditional music teaching. Additionally, through frequency analysis based on a survey of teachers' basic data, we found that higher teaching backgrounds of teachers and their age made them accept Xige more. The most effective channels for passing on Xige are television and internet broadcasts.

Keywords: Xige, Educational Activities, Preference, Awareness, Correlation analysis

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 Research Background

Continuous converging of music culture into modern society in China created an emerging form of art 'Xige (Chinese opera song)', which combines vocal music and play. Xige is a convergence of play and song artistic creation, and it is an artistic embodiment of Chinese play and the modern singing style, which still is being developed because it has the tunes and melodies of play and the attractive mood of contemporary music.

Xige has several representative definitions. As Xige uses play music subject matter to create songs, it is constructed with a focus on play which is different from general songs. That can be said that Xige is a complete coordination of song and play and has a unique style. Above all, Xige must follow the rules of song creation. Unless it is a tune from a play, then it cannot be a Xige.

Regarding this, the creators of Xige can make it shorter and more concise with subject matters and content not bound to play formalization, but Xige can have a more active and vigorous mood and more easily understandable melodies, and it can be reached to the public in a more friendly manner. For this reason, Xige is regarded as a converged art of play and music or an art beyond general arts. However, ultimately, Xige can be said as an inheritance of play and an innovation of song. The previous studies on Xige show that most of them are dissertations of vocal arts students. Most of the students researched Xige when they were in master's degree, and it made them focus on Xige's singing style without considering music sociology or music pedagogy. Most research topics were focused on their own experiences of music activities and the analysis subjects were just one or two arts. Research topics and subjects are duplicated in many papers, and many of them have already been studied in previous studies (Na et al., 2024; AlZubi, 2023; Kusuma et al., 2022). Thus, this study is to complement the insufficient parts of previous studies to continue studying music education.

As Xige has drawn increasing attention in China, many challenges are coming to the fore in terms of regional succession and education. Accordingly, this study identified professional educators' awareness, education methods, and preference for Xige through survey and data analysis. It also identified more specific Xige education methods, the creation of quality Xige work, and traditional culture succession.

1.2 Research Method

This survey-based paper was written about a quantitative study using SPSS software for proving hypotheses through reliability analysis, exploratory factor analysis, frequency analysis, multi-response analysis, technical analysis, correlation analysis, structural equation analysis with structural equations.

1.3 Research Subject

In this study, 300 questionnaires were distributed to professional vocal music teachers of the Music Conservatory in China. 269 of them were recovered, with faithful answers. The questionnaire included 15 items regarding Xige for exploring the method of succession of Xige with the major means of preference, awareness, and teaching of teachers. A study model was established through multiple data analyses.

1.4 Research Questionary

First, how did instructors choose Xige for teaching students? How did they learn and understand Xige?

Second, is it the reason for teachers to like Xige and teach a vocal music genre “Xige” that they know traditional play and Xige?

In the third question, do the above reasons have a direct impact on students’ choice of knowledge and their educational outcome?

2. SURVEY DESIGN AND ANALYSIS METHODS

At present, we can see the trend in China that this genre “Xige” is more popular than before. However, its education should be designed for better succession by professional educators due to its high standards for singing ability and various styles of play music. Xige’s really high teaching conditions attract university instructors to Xige education as main teachers. Xige educators’ understanding of traditional play culture and their preference and awareness of Xige have a direct impact on education quality. As a result, this study investigated the preferences and awareness of music college music instructors in China regarding the teaching of Xige in the field of music education.

2.1 Survey Design

The survey consisted of nine questions, including the first part of four basic questions about personal information such as age, teaching career, gender, and educational backgrounds. As part of the second part of the questions, they ask five questions about their experiences and methods of educating Xige and how they would like to know Xige. The five scaling questions are 1) the teachers’ awareness of the range of Xige, 2) their understanding degree of teaching methods of Xige, 3) their availability of converging play factors into general popular music, 4) their preferences on Xige and play, and 5) their understanding level of value differentiation between Xige and play. The survey examines whether the subjects are capable of doing Xige education activities, as well as the state of Xige education at the time of this survey.

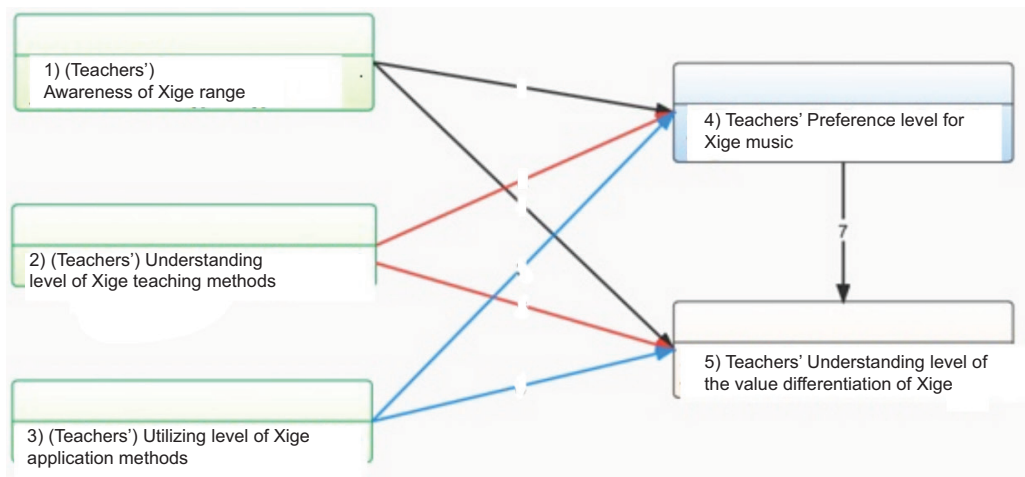


Fig. 1 Survey model to instructors and Structure of study hypotheses.

2.2 Data Analysis

2.2.1. Reliability Analysis

For assessing the reliability of the study hypotheses, this study analyzed the data with Cronbach Alpha Coefficient, which has often been used in the field of social science. In reliability analysis, if Cronbach Alpha Coefficient is below 0.6, it needs correction. If it is 0.6 or more and less than 0.7, it is acceptable, if it is 0.7 or more and less than 0.8, it is good, if it is 0.8 or more and less than 0.9, it is excellent, and 0.9 or more means very good.

As in the reliability analysis statistics table, you can see that the awareness of Xige is 0.892, the understanding level of teaching methods is 0.919, the utilizing level of application methods is 0.917, the preferences on Xige is 0.897, and the understanding level of value differentiation is 0.897, which means very good in the understanding level of education methods and the utilizing level of application methods that both are over 0.9, and then the awareness level of Xige, the Preference level for it, and the understanding level of its value differentiation, the reliability coefficient of each scaling item is between 0.8 and 0.9. Thus, the reliability of this survey can be identified as high. Moreover, the reliability analysis of question 15 of the survey also shows a high result of 0.915.

2.2.2. Exploratory Factor Analysis

For securing the accuracy and reliability of the survey results, this study used KMO and Bartlett's Test method. Generally, the smaller the significance level of Bartlett's test of sphericity is ($P < 0.05$), the higher possibility the significant relationship between the original variables can have. KMO value is used to compare pure correlation coefficients and partial correlation coefficients, whose value is between 0 and 1.

If KMO value is over 0.9, it means very suitable for factor analysis, 0.7-0.9 is suitable, 0.6-0.7 is comparatively suitable, 0.6-0.5 is not suitable, and below 0.5 is really not suitable for factor analysis. Bartlett's test of sphericity value is used for testing the significance of correlation coefficients

Table 1 Reliability Analysis.

Questions	Cronbach's Alpha	Number of Questions
Awareness of Xige range	0.892	3
Understanding level of Xige teaching methods	0.919	3
Utilizing level of Xige application methods	0.917	3
Preference level for Xige music	0.897	3
Understanding level of the value differentiation of Xige	0.897	3
Total survey	0.915	15

between items, and if it is lower than 0.05, it means that each item is suitable for factor analysis. The KMO value of this survey is $0.7 < 0.88$ and the significance of Bartlett's test of sphericity was revealed as $0.000 < 0.01$, so the data was identified as suitable for exploratory factor analysis.

At the time of data extraction, as the result of exploratory factor analysis according to the extraction principle which decides the basic eigenvalues of main components is greater than 1, a total of five common factors were extracted as shown in the next table. The eigenvalues of factor 1 is $6.988 > 1$, its distribution is 46.588%, the eigenvalues of factor 2 is $1.927 > 1$, its distribution is 12.85%, the eigenvalues of factor 3 is $1.447 > 1$, its distribution is 9.648%, the eigenvalues of factor 4 is $1.285 > 1$, its distribution is 8.565%, the eigenvalues of factor 5 is $1.022 > 1$, and its distribution is 6.813%. Likewise, the cumulative distributed contribution rate is 79.658%, which is 60% or more, and as the level of distribution of extraction is good, it is decided that the effect of the extraction factor is good.

Using the main component analysis method, a factor loading matrix was designed. With factor analysis, key variables and correlation degree with each factor were analyzed. For the clearer naming of each main factor, a varimax rotation was used to perform an orthogonal rotation into the factor loading matrix. When selecting measurement items, the value of factor loading was set with the standard of holding and deleting data and it was classified as a factor loading of below 0.5.

2.2.3. Frequency Analysis

In this anonymous survey, based on reliability and discrimination, demographic variables including gender had been designed. According to the survey result, the answer results of a 10-20year

Table 2 KMO and Bartlett's Test.

KMO		0.880
Bartlett's Test	Approx. Chi-Square	3077.010
	df (Degree of Freedom)	105
	P Value	0.000

Table 3 Total Variance Explained.

Initial Eigenvalues			
Factor	Total	% of Variance	Cumulative%
1	6.988	46.588	46.588
2	1.927	12.850	59.438
3	1.447	9.648	69.086
4	1.285	8.565	77.651
5	1.022	6.813	84.464
6	0.346	2.309	86.773
7	0.310	2.068	88.841
8	0.300	1.999	90.840
9	0.250	1.668	92.508
10	0.245	1.632	94.140
11	0.210	1.400	95.540
12	0.201	1.341	96.881
13	0.176	1.171	98.052
14	0.150	1.000	99.052
15	0.142	0.948	100.000
<i>Extraction Sums of Squared Loadings</i>			
1	6.988	46.588	46.588
2	1.927	12.850	59.438
3	1.447	9.648	69.086
4	1.285	8.565	77.651
5	1.022	6.813	84.464
<i>Rotation Sums of Squared Loadings</i>			
1	2.634	17.563	17.563
2	2.621	17.474	35.037
3	2.530	16.868	51.905
4	2.524	16.824	68.729
5	2.360	15.734	84.464

teaching career were summed up to 56.13%, the highest rate. In this regard, the rate of females was 62.83% and the rate of males was 37.17%. As for the highest level of education, the master's degree was relatively high at 66.17%. In major elective course distribution (the genre of teaching music), the traditional folk style of singing occupied 78.07%. In terms of competent music genre, it was identified that more than 50% selected C (competent for both). For the degree of identifying Xige, more than 30% selected "A: Capable of singing 1-2 songs." Besides, for the choice of Xige in the class or performance, more than 60% selected "No", and the rate of selecting "Yes" was 39.78%.

2.2.4. Homogeneity Analysis (Multiple Response Analysis)

For whether the distribution rate of multiple response questions on the path to how they become aware of Xige culture is uniform, Chi-square goodness of fit test was us.

In accordance to the summary table, the result of goodness of fit test was confirmed as a significant level ($\chi^2=224.942$, $p=0.000<0.05$), the rate of selecting each item had a meaningful difference, and this difference was decided to have a possibility to be specifically compared through response rate or case percentage. To see the details of statistics, the response rate and case percentage to TV and the internet appeared to be exceptionally high.

2.2.5. Descriptive Statistics

Usually, in Descriptive Statistics, the level of the index of each variable is measured by mean and standard deviation. The higher mean indicates that the mean level of the sample is high, and the degree of distribution in statistical groups shows the difference of the sample at the same index

Table 4 Reliability Analysis.

Item	Optional Item	Frequency	Rate (%)
Teaching career	Below 5 years	32	11.90
	5-10 years	31	11.52
	10-20 years	151	56.13
	Above 20 years	55	20.45
Gender	Male	100	37.18
	Female	169	62.83
The highest level of education	Bachelor	43	15.99
	Master	178	66.17
	Doctorate or more	48	17.84
Major elective course	Traditional folk style of singing	210	78.07
	Bel canto singing method	57	21.19
	Popular singing method	2	0.74
Competent music genre	A. Chinese music	77	28.63
	B. Western music	49	18.22
	C. Both	138	51.30
	D. Not good at both	5	1.86
Degree of identifying Xige	A. Capable of singing 1-2 songs	82	30.48
	B. Capable of singing 3-4 songs	52	19.33
	C. Capable of singing 5 or more songs	75	27.88
	D. Not capable	60	22.31
The choice of Xige in the class or performance	Yes	107	39.78
	No	162	60.22
Total		269	100.00

Table 5 Response Rate and Case Percentage Summary.

Item	N	Response Rate	Case Percent (n=269)
Material	72	11.594%	26.766%
Family climate	43	6.924%	15.985%
TV	154	24.799%	57.249%
Internet	219	35.266%	81.413%
Colleague	67	10.789%	24.907%
Other	66	10.628%	24.535%
Total	621	100%	230.855%

Goodness of fit test $\chi^2=224.942$, $p=0.000$.

through standard deviation. This survey used 5-point Likert scale and the answers consisted of 1-5 points, which meant that point 1 was 'not agree' and point 5 was 'very agree', thus scores had higher agreement. If the mean is over 3, it reveals most subjects tend to agree.

As shown in the table, it can be regarded that a higher score means the subjects' agreement with the applicable item, and the detailed analysis on each item is in the next.

2.2.6. Correlation Analysis

Correlation analysis is a statistical method to analyze a correlation between two or more variables. The mark “*” at the upper right of a correlation coefficient indicates that it has correlations, and the absence of the mark says that it has no correlations. Furthermore, if the coefficient is bigger than zero, it means that the two variables have static correlations, and if it is smaller than zero, it means that there are negative correlations between the two variables.

The result of correlation analysis shows the significance of level 0.01 as of a correlation of 0.379 between teachers' preferences and their teaching methods, and it can be considered that there is a significant static correlation between teachers' preferences and their teaching methods. Additionally, the correlation coefficient between teachers' preferences and their awareness of Xige is 0.427,

Table 6 Descriptive Statistics Analysis.

	Mean	Standard Deviation
Awareness of Xige range	2.815	1.148
Understanding level of Xige teaching methods	2.921	1.23
Utilizing level of Xige application methods	3.575	1.007
Preference level for Xige music	3.226	1.186
Understanding level of the value differentiation of Xige	3.664	1.032

Table 7 Survey Item Statistics.

	Question	Mean	Standard Deviation	N
1	Awareness of Xige range 1: I think that the performance work of Xige actors with professional singing methods can be regarded as Xige.	2.86	1.255	269
2	Awareness of Xige range 2: I think that the mixed songs with Xige factors are Xige.	2.81	1.241	269
3	Awareness of Xige range 3: I think that if a singer who is not a Xige actor imitates the singing of melodies of Xige, the songs can be regarded as Xige.	2.77	1.301	269
4	Understanding level of Xige teaching methods 1: Making students understand the traditional value of Xige: In the instructional course of Xige, students should understand the inherent traditional value of Xige.	2.92	1.312	269
5	Understanding level of Xige teaching methods 2: In the instructional course of Xige, students first should understand the singing methods of Xige.	3.00	1.333	269
6	Understanding level of Xige teaching methods 3: Providing the opportunities to sing various Xige songs: In the instructional course of Xige, students should try to sing many Xige songs of different times.	2.84	1.333	269
7	Utilizing level of Xige application methods 1: Musical instrument accompanying Xige, and its singing methods can be effectively converged into songs.	3.62	1.049	269
8	Utilizing level of Xige application methods 2: Make up, dancing, and actions of Xige can be effectively converged into songs.	3.58	1.092	269
9	Utilizing level of Xige application methods 3: Lyrics of Xige can be effectively converged into songs.	3.52	1.118	269
10	Preference level for Xige music 1: Professors like teaching students Xige.	3.34	1.219	269
11	Preference level for Xige music 2: Professors like singing Xige.	3.14	1.342	269
12	Preference level for Xige music 3: Professors like studying Xige continuously in instructional courses.	3.20	1.345	269
13	Understanding level of the value differentiation of Xige 1: If instructional courses include Xige culture, it can be helpful for students to identify the unique expressions of Chinese music.	3.94	1.159	269
14	Understanding level of the value differentiation of Xige 2: Xige is an expression of the changes in traditional music culture during that era.	3.46	1.081	269
15	Understanding level of the value differentiation of Xige 3: Xige can represent play, and it has a significant meaning in inheriting play culture.	3.58	1.158	269

which reveals a significance of level 0.1, and it appears that there is a significant static correlation between teachers' preferences and their awareness of Xige. The correlation coefficient between teachers' preferences and their application methods is 0.440, which shows a significance of level 0.1, and it means that there is a significant static correlation between teachers' preferences and their awareness of application methods. The correlation coefficient between teachers' empathy level and their teaching methods is 0.426, which means a significance of level 0.1, and it can be regarded that there is a significant static correlation between teachers' empathy level and their teaching methods. Moreover, the correlation coefficient between teachers' empathy level and their awareness of Xige is 0.461, which has a significance of level 0.1, and it can be known that there is a significant static correlation between teachers' empathy level and their awareness of Xige. In addition to the above, the correlation coefficient between teachers' empathy level and their application methods is 0.541, which indicates a significance of level 0.1, and it shows that there is a significant static correlation between teachers' empathy level and their application methods.

2.2.7. Structural Equation Analysis

The result of multivariate analysis presents the above seven hypotheses, and this analysis mainly analyzes the relations between functions. Concretely, it is used in the studies of social science, economic finance, psychology, and business administration, and these studies have diverse potential variables that cannot be observed directly, such as academic motivation, user satisfaction, etc. Since the 1980s, it has developed enough to sufficiently complement the flaws of previous statistical methods. Thus, this study confirmed path coefficients using the structural equation model (SEM). This model is also known as the covariance structural model.

Table 8 Correlation Analysis.

	Awareness of Xige range	Understanding level of Xige teaching methods	Utilizing level of Xige application methods	Preference level for Xige music	Understanding level of the value differentiation of Xige
Awareness of Xige range	1				
Understanding level of Xige teaching methods	0.295***	1			
Utilizing level of Xige application methods	0.497***	0.359***	1		
Preference level for Xige music	0.379***	0.427***	0.440***	1	
Understanding level of the value differentiation of Xige	0.426***	0.461***	0.541***	0.570***	1

Generally, used indexes are Chi-square and degree of freedom, GFI, RMSEA, RMR, CFI, NFI, and TLC. Other indexes are also used but they are used according to respective conditions.

Chi-square (χ^2) and degree of freedom (df) are fit for use in comparing several models. The smaller χ^2 value is better, and df is the number of reflecting complexity of models that simpler model has more df and more complex model has less df.

Root mean square error of approximation (RMSEA) is usually below 0.10, the result of its analysis was 0.027 which is very small value and good result. Comparative fit index (CFI) is used in the comparison of hypotheses and independent models with the value of 0-1, and the value closer to 1 shows better goodness of fit, and then $CFI \geq 0.9$ is considered as a very good model.

Firstly, when we see the result of the goodness of fit of the model, Chi-square / degree of freedom (χ^2 / df) is under 3 and most of the other indexes satisfy the requirements of test data. Thus, the model is considered as a good model.

[Table 9] shows regression coefficients, generally through P values and standardized regression coefficients. It can be checked if the path (X->Y) has direct linear relations. In reference to significance analysis (P value < 0.05), whether the model has correlations among variables is analyzed. In the case when significance exists, it reveals the correlations among variables exist, the correlations can be deeply analyzed through standardized regression coefficients.

3. RESEARCH RESULT

Accordingly, the analysis result is as below.

First, the regression coefficient between teachers' preferences on Xige music and their awareness of Xige range was 0.303 and P value was below 0.05, which showed their significant static correlation and brought to the adoption of the hypothesis.

Second, the regression coefficient between teachers' preferences on Xige music and their understanding level of teaching methods was 0.15 and P value was below 0.05, which showed their significant static correlation and brought to the adoption of the hypothesis.

Third, the regression coefficient between teachers' preferences on Xige music and their application methods was 0.278 and P value was below 0.05, which showed their significant static correlation and brought to the adoption of the hypothesis.

Fourth, the regression coefficient between teachers' understanding of the value differentiation of Xige and their awareness level of the Xige range was 0.177 and the P value was below 0.05, which showed their significant static correlation and brought to the adoption of the hypothesis.

Table 9 Goodness of fit Index.

General Index	Chi-square / Degree of Freedom (χ^2 / df)	RMSEA	NFI	IFI	TLI	CFI
Evaluation standard	<3	<0.10	>0.9	>0.9	>0.9	>0.9
Value	1.193	0.027	0.97	0.995	0.993	0.995

Table 10 Regression Coefficient.

X (1,2,3)		Y (4,5)	Estimate	S.E.	C.R.	P
Awareness of Xige range	--->	Preference level for Xige music	0.303	0.062	4.922	***
Understanding level of Xige teaching methods	--->	Preference level for Xige music	0.15	0.058	2.604	0.009
Utilizing level of Xige application methods	--->	Preference level for Xige music	0.278	0.076	3.654	***
Awareness of Xige range	--->	Understanding level of the value differentiation of Xige	0.177	0.055	3.186	0.001
Understanding level of Xige teaching methods	--->	Understanding level of the value differentiation of Xige	0.079	0.05	1.586	0.113
Utilizing level of Xige application methods	--->	Understanding level of the value differentiation of Xige	0.296	0.068	4.352	***
Preference level for Xige music	--->	Understanding level of the value differentiation of Xige	0.348	0.065	5.361	***

Fifth, the regression coefficient between teachers' understanding of the value differentiation of Xige and their understanding of the level of teaching methods was 0.079 and the P value was over 0.05, which did not show their significant static correlation and brought to the rejection of the hypothesis.

Sixth, the regression coefficient between teachers' understanding of the value differentiation of Xige and their utilization of application methods was 0.296 and the P value was below 0.05, which showed their significant static correlation and brought to the adoption of the hypothesis.

Seventh, the regression coefficient between teachers' understanding of the value differentiation of Xige and their preferences on Xige music was 0.348 and P value was below 0.05, which showed their significant static correlation and brought to the adoption of the hypothesis.

4. CONCLUSION

Firstly, these study results suggest that the more teaching career teachers have, the higher age they have, the greater acceptance they have of Chinese Xige. Moreover, we can see that as Xige is a traditional music genre in China, older teachers easily have had access to it from their young age following their circumstances during their growth, so their awareness of Xige is deeper. Xige is the root of Chinese traditional folk music, so it is preferred that competent teachers of traditional singing methods teach Xige, and mainly female singing methods are used. In Chinese universities,

music instructors are asked to teach traditional singing methods and Bel canto singing methods. The reason is that it is useful for teaching students' diverse vocal works and guiding them. Furthermore, students will be able to approach Xige more friendly through learning Xige songs written in teaching materials or through receiving an apprenticeship course from their family members who majored in traditional music. Therefore, it is necessary to improve the awareness of Xige singing methods by integrating Xige into the education curriculum.

Secondly, the most effective way of spreading Xige is TV and internet broadcasting. In China, the terrestrial channels in the capital city and other regions have various music programs, and Xige teachers could have access to Xige via this route. Due to the development of various lines of internet broadcasts and short-form video platforms, the rating of TV programs plunged, but popular video clips on online platforms can be broadcast again through terrestrial channels. Accordingly, it can be concluded that the diverse planning abilities of eastern and western music which have been shown in broadcast music programs on terrestrial channels have the same impact on Xige as well as vocal education for majoring in vocal music.

Thirdly, the value of traditional arts should be taught under the premise that students can understand Xige through Xige teaching methods. This can be connected to the fact that the most effective way of teaching is to teach time-variant typical works. Xige cannot be stipulated to one singing method, but it may be dangerous for teachers to create Xige by mixing play music singing methods on their own, so creating Xige should be done based on traditional music singing methods.

Lastly, the survey result pointed out that the higher preference of teachers led them to have higher value differentiation on Xige. If a teacher prefers a special music genre, then it is natural that they research the genre and teach it to students. Through their music experiences, they will be able to provide quality music education and inherit the special music genre effectively.

Therefore, six of seven hypotheses in the study questions were adopted, but the hypothesis of "The higher level of instructors' understanding of Xige's teaching methods will increase the possibility of their acceptance of Xige's value" was rejected. This is because the converged expressions of Xige can be taught as a teaching method, but due to the difficulty of understanding the value of Xige for some teachers, it is hard to see that there is an inevitable consequence between teaching methods and value differentiation. Generally, teachers must understand the connotative importance of traditional music focused on the content of the curriculum. It can be an interpretation with a concern that various tries and efforts at traditional music teaching methods could be important but there could be distortions.

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