

# Explore the Curriculum Ideology and Politics Construction of Dental Student: Non-medical Aesthetic Dentistry as an Example

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## To cite this article:

Xiang Guo, Kashaf Naz, Si-Yu Tao, Nan Zhou, Zheng-Jie Liang, Xiao-Fang Cheng, Xiao-Chun Sun, Sheng-Ping Cao, Ke-Yi Zhang, Zhu-Ling Guo. Explore the Curriculum Ideology and Politics Construction of Dental Student: Non-medical Aesthetic Dentistry as an Example.

*International Journal of Education, Culture and Society*. Vol. 7, No. 3, 2022, pp. 145-149. doi: 10.11648/j.ijecs.20220703.14

Received: June 6, 2022; Accepted: June 16, 2022; Published: June 27, 2022

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**Abstract:** People's pursuit of beauty is becoming more and more fierce, and the development of the medical beauty industry has also caused a boom. In the process of its development, the development of China's medical beauty industry is still in the exploratory stage. This unconstrained rapid development also hides some chaos in the industry. The lack of humanistic oral medicine students will contribute to the instability of this industry. Therefore, the curriculum of oral medicine students is particularly important. Taking non-medical aesthetics as an example, this paper discusses a series of reflections caused by the current non-medical aesthetics from the history of the development of oral aesthetics and the current situation of China's oral aesthetic industry. This article further elaborates on the concept of modern oral medicine education. From the perspective of stomatology students at different levels, such as junior college students, undergraduates, master's and doctoral students, etc., they are speculated, and then the social significance of humanistic ideological cultivation of oral medicine students under the rapid development of oral aesthetics is clarified. Carrying out oral medicine aesthetics courses and integrating them into the curriculum can not only improve the aesthetic literacy of oral medicine students, but also lead China's oral beauty industry to develop in a positive direction.

**Keywords:** Medical Aesthetics, Oral Medical Aesthetics, Humanistic Literacy: Aesthetic Dentistry

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## 1. Introduction

Medical aesthetics is a discipline that uses professional medical knowledge, medical aesthetic knowledge and clinical operation techniques to improve the beauty of human texture and appearance. Oral aesthetics is a branch of dentistry based on dentistry and oriented by medical aesthetics to maintain, repair and shape the beauty of teeth, oral cavity and maxillofacial [1]. In recent years, with the

development of social economy and culture, the development of oral aesthetics in China has been intensified. Under the wave of chasing after beauty, non-medical aesthetic dentistry emerges like a spring, which dismay consumers, destabilized the industry and encouraged the flames of informal dentists. This paper discusses the current situation of dental aesthetics and dental aesthetics curriculum education on non-medical aesthetic dentistry as an example.

## 2. History of the Development and the Current Situation of the Oral Medical Aesthetic Industry in China

The combination of dentistry and aesthetics first began in the 1920s with the creation of "Hollywood dentistry" by American dentists, which improved the aesthetics of the teeth of Hollywood movie stars or changed the shape of the teeth to meet the needs of the role [2]. The intersection of dentistry and aesthetics formed a cross-discipline called aesthetic dentistry in the West, called dental aesthetics in Japan, and called dentistry aesthetics or oral aesthetics in China. As early as the late 1980s, the first domestic and foreign article on medical aesthetics written by Qing-Xing Peng and Lin-Zhi Qiu was published. In the same period, Prof. Shao-Xuan Sun and other professors proposed the concept of "oral medical aesthetics". Since then, the discussion of medical aesthetics has become a craze. In the 1990s, the first domestic and foreign edition of *Medical Aesthetics*, edited by Qi-Liang Zhang, was published, integrating cosmetic surgery, cosmetic dentistry, cosmetic Chinese medicine, and cosmetic medical ethics into a single discipline, building the prototype of the modern Chinese aesthetic medicine as a whole. Oral medical aesthetics is a major crux of medical aesthetics, which is a combination of medicine, aesthetics and art. It is based on the professional knowledge of dentistry and guided by medical aesthetics, thus maintaining, repairing or reshaping the beauty of dental morphology, facial appearance, etc [3].

With the passage of time and the development of technology, the public's pursuit of "beauty" is becoming more and more deepening. In recent decades aesthetic medicine has attained an emerging social significance and firm place in the medical profession image [4]. In 21st century, the aesthetic medicine industry has gradually become popular. Oral medicine as a major branch of aesthetic medicine is also highly sought after by the public. The scope of the dental profession is to protect and restore the oral cavity from dental diseases, which has now been expanded to treat defective smiles [5]. However, currently there are many medical malpractices due to the lack of supervision of the medical aesthetic industry and the omission of relevant legal regulations. In 2019, the Chamber of Commerce of the Beauty and Cosmetics Industry of the All-China Federation of Industry and Commerce had established a professional committee for aesthetic dentistry, which had illegally promoted professional skills training for aesthetic dentistry of a medical nature. The following year, the Chinese Stomatological Association publicized a message "Statement on Resolutely Resisting the Commercialization of Dental Care Disorder". Two years later, another news of the establishment of the Professional Committee of Aesthetic Dentistry of the Chinese Association of Hairdressing and Beauty appeared, which sparked the concern of a wide range of scholars in dentistry.

### 2.1. Medical Aesthetic Dentistry

For the development of aesthetic dentistry, the prerequisite

is health, in order not to damage the patient's whole body Health and oral local health are the principles. Oral medical aesthetics belongs to the medical aesthetic industry, mainly including teeth whitening, dental veneers, aesthetic restoration, orthodontics, etc. It is based on professional dentistry knowledge and technology without damaging or minimizing the normal tissues of the teeth, and takes into account the aesthetic needs while dealing with oral diseases, restoring oral physiological functions and maintaining oral health.

The dental hard tissues, together with the mucosa and skin, form a purely natural barrier of the body against foreign invading microorganisms. However, while mucous membranes and skin are renewable, the dental hard tissues, especially the enamel located on the surface of the crown, are not, and When the hard tissues of the teeth are damaged, they need to be repaired with the help of special dental materials and restorative methods [6]. We all have different opinions on the understanding of beauty, understanding consumers' preference for beauty, and providing appropriate and customized aesthetic designs, and when invasive operations are performed on teeth (e.g. veneers, full crown restoration, teeth whitening, surgery, etc.), regular scientific and harmless drugs and materials should be used, and dental practitioners who have received professional dental studies and are qualified to practice dentistry should operate in accordance with the technical specifications of dentistry and aesthetic academic standards to restore the physiological functions and aesthetics of the patient's mouth [7].

### 2.2. Non-medical Aesthetic Dentistry

The Chinese Dental Association believes that invasive operations on teeth during dental treatment (including the use of chemicals on the tooth surface, grinding, scaling, changing the shape, etc.) belong to oral medical behavior, so oral medical aesthetics belongs to medical aesthetic dentistry, and "non-medical aesthetic dentistry" does not exist, it interferes with patient's real needs or undermines established professional standards [8]. But nowadays, along with the rapid development of social economy, people's pursuit of beauty has become more and more intense, and the perception of beauty has been distorted. However, China's beauty industry has not been the scope of medical supervision, practitioners often apply for a commercial license to practice. In recent years, a number of "dental surgeons" have emerged in the field of oral medicine, resulting in chaos in the medical dental industry and the emergence of many non-medical dental phenomena. Today, there are various types of "dental" training courses in the market, the shortest length of study is 3 days, the longest is only 6 days. After enrolling, students teach all-porcelain veneers, removal/scaling and other "dental beauty" projects [9]. Beauty salons have become the destination of these "dentists" after completion of their studies. The beauticians and the dentists agreed that the beauty is the beauty of the teeth not a treatment project and medical professionalism is gradually being replaced by commercial interests [10]. The

state regulation of the beauty industry has not been medicalized. Some beauty practitioners are in such a regulatory gap in the rate of haphazard.

### 3. Modern Dental Education Concept

The higher dental education system in China has been formed after half a century of summarizing domestic and international experiences, especially the continuous development of reform and opening-up policies in recent decades. The three-year college education mainly produce relevant higher dental talents, i.e. higher vocational and technical talents. Such as dental clinical therapist, dental nurse, dental prosthetic technician, 5-years courses to train practical dentists, long academic courses to train research dentists, postgraduate degree after graduation to train dental research talents, postgraduate training to train specialist dentists. Such as oral and maxillofacial surgeons, endodontists, periodontists, prosthodontists, orthodontists, etc.; continuing dental education is a lifelong education, and every person who obtains intermediate title must get consistant dental education every year to obtain the corresponding credits in order to practice [11]. At present, China's dental education curriculum mainly includes two categories of dental basic courses and dental professional courses. And there is a lack in aesthetic education. The president of the prestigious American Academy of Aesthetic Dentistry has pointed out: "Aesthetic dentistry comes from art, and one of the tasks of the dentist is to preserve, perfect, and create a beautiful smile through a series of dental treatments without compromising function." Rendered by Western aesthetics, aesthetic education has been carried out earlier in our polytechnic universities and has also obtained the expected results and is loved by university students. However, aesthetic education in medical colleges started later. At present, it is yet to be explored in dental schools for how to execute aesthetic education with their own professional characteristics and form an aesthetic education system with their own characteristics and modern forms. With the development of social medical care, the progress of China's dental medical industry is inseparable from the high-end medical personnel. Therefore, as a medical school that makes dental professionals, it must change the traditional teaching mode and integrate aesthetics throughout the study career in the original dental education to meet the needs of the discipline and social development [12].

Aesthetic education in dentistry is an aesthetic phenomenon and aesthetic law embodied in dentistry, which not only maintains health, but also scientifically creates a perfect individual. Aesthetic education in dentistry intersects with many disciplines such as law, medicine and medical ethics, is a kind of health soft science, and also involves many humanities and social sciences and natural sciences and many other fields with a wide range [13]. Medical schools should introduce aesthetic education courses into the compulsory curriculum to make medical students with skills to appreciate beauty, the power to feel beauty and the skill to

create beauty. A comprehensive and in-depth study of the basic principles of aesthetics, medical aesthetics, dental aesthetics, and the diagnostic and therapeutic fundamentals of cosmetic dentistry will improve the aesthetic ability of medical students and establish a correct concept of aesthetics. Thus, dentistry students can have excellent clinical skills and strong aesthetic qualities to create new medical talents in line with modern society and better serve the people and society. With the promulgation and implementation of the National Medium and Long-term Education Reform and Development Plan (2010-2020), China has raised quality education to the height of "the strategic theme of education reform and development". In today's society, to be an excellent physician, it is not enough to have good clinical skills alone, but also to have a high level of medical humanities. Medical students should be trained in medical knowledge, skills, professional attitudes, communication skills, and critical thinking. The medical humanities curriculum should be added to integrate the whole process of dental education. Produce dentists with excellent skills but not lack of good professionalism and humanistic care [14]. To establish the correct ethical bottom line of medicine. To become a competent and skillful dental professional.

### 4. The Social Significance of the Cultural and Political Training of Dentistry Students

With the improvement of people's living standards, the public's pursuit of beauty has become more and more intense, and the so-called love of beauty is in everyone's heart. But there is also a distorted understanding of the beauty of some of them. This undoubtedly gives many irregular beauty institutions and oral medical institutions to take advantage of the opportunity. With the emergence of a "new profession" - "dental technician", and even the establishment of a "dental special committee", breaking the balance of the industry The equilibrium and stability of the entire industry has been upset, and the health of consumers has been compromised. The acknowledgement of a doctor, medical skills and medical ethics are parallel, both are equally important, one cannot be without the other. Nowadays, the medical school curriculum is an important way to cultivate medical ethics and humanistic qualities in medical students [15].

Xiang Yang, chairman of the Teaching Research Branch of the Chinese Society of Higher Education and former editor-in-chief of the Higher Education Press, believes that "the curriculum ideologically organically integrates the spirit of seeking truth from facts with the basic laws and rich contents of college curriculum plan, and moves in the same direction with the construction of Civic and Political Science curriculum, which is the method to realize the fundamental task of establishing moral education". To comprehensively promote the construction of the curriculum of Civic Science and Politics is to put the guidance of values in the teaching of knowledge and cultivation of ability, and help students to

shape a correct world view, outlook on life and values, which is the proper meaning of talent production, and is a necessary content. It will be more conducive to cultivating students' scientific literacy, professionalism and sense of mission. As a dentistry student to establish a high sense of social responsibility is to ensure the healthy development of the medical profession is an important foundation.

#### ***4.1. Non-medical Aesthetic Dentistry from the Perspective of Specialist Education***

The dentistry major in higher education institutions is mainly responsible for the task of cultivating professional dentists for primary medical and health care, and the talent production work for students in the context of higher education should not only pay attention to develop professional skills in students, but also enable them to make a correct world view, life view and values through the development of the curriculum ideological and political and humanities education. Set up elective courses related to medical humanities education such as humanities college, psychology college [16]. Aesthetic education can lead and guide dentistry, and medical aesthetic education can be the foundation of the entire dental education community and a breakthrough for teaching reform in the future. Research shows that it is urgent to strengthen aesthetic education for dentistry students. The ability of visual measurement is one of the basic skills of dentists, which directly affects the quality of treatment. It is found that most students have a vague concept of length measurement and poor accuracy of visual inspection, which requires continuous standardized training to develop students' medical art skills. Medical students learn clinical skills and aesthetic skills in an atmosphere full of humanistic spirit. When students enter the workplace, enter the social life, and become a dental professional, they can provide better services to patients with the ideal beliefs as the foundation and medical humanities as the bottom line.

#### ***4.2. Non-medical Aesthetic Dentistry from the Perspective of Undergraduate Education***

The National Party Committee of the Communist Party of China put forward "Several Opinions on Strengthening and Improving the Ideological and Moral Construction and Education Work of College Students" document clearly states that the goal of Civic Education for undergraduates in the current society is to cultivate student's sense of social responsibility; to develop student's correct ideological concepts and regulate their learning behavior and living habits as the main work, so as to improve student's comprehensive quality, and then to achieve the comprehensive and coordinated development of undergraduates in society. In general, undergraduate education has changed from the traditional focus on ideological and political education to the process of building student's cultural literacy and values [17]. After five years of medical career, undergraduates have fully adapted to medical

life, and through participating in volunteer activities and serving the society, they see their future direction, experience their own value, and have a stronger belief in "making people's mouths healthier". Have a high sense of social responsibility. Not only responsible for themselves, but also responsible for patients, responsible for society, care for life, care for patients and clarify the relationship between physician professional ethics and business ethics [18]. In contrast, non-medical dental institutions start from their own interests, "dentists" deviate from medical principles, under the guise of satisfying patient's needs, exaggerate propaganda, one-sided propaganda, carry out aesthetic treatment that is not in line with the principles of dentistry, and lose the basic sense of medical responsibility.

#### ***4.3. Non-medical Aesthetic Dentistry from the Thinking Education of Master's Degree Students***

Distinguished from the objectives of undergraduate Public Education, in the Public Education carried out by postgraduate PhD students, the main direction is to train thoughtful, educated, qualified and disciplined citizens of high-quality civil society for society. With a more objective view of social development, the concept of honor and shame. And require postgraduate doctoral students on the basis of this have the ability to serve society at a practical level. Realize the talent production of dental graduate students from single type to composite type, from skill type to art type, from artisan type to cultural type, so that they can integrate aesthetic principles with professional knowledge and clinical skills in medical practice, so as to achieve the most perfect treatment effect [19]. Non-medical aesthetic dentistry in the name of medical treatment to do things that go against medical ethics, which undermines the dignity of medicine, postgraduate students need to have a strong ability to improvise and solve practical problems, as a dentist, its obligation to adhere to the general public and the community to popularize oral health knowledge, promote the authorized views from the dental professional community, and promote the public on improper "aesthetic dentistry" widespread awareness and consciously resist, and correct the industry chaos. The most important thing is that every person engaged in the oral health care industry should adhere to the original intention of medicine and consciously resist the unregulated medical practices led by commercial interests.

## **5. Conclusion**

In today's society, few people from non medical community and dentists lack knowledge of oral aesthetics, medical schools lack aesthetics courses, medical students lack aesthetic appreciation and lack humanistic qualities. The dental aesthetic industry presents many "non-medical aesthetics" phenomena. In summary, with the prevalence of "non-medical dentistry", dental students must establish a good aesthetic and medical humanistic literacy. This is not only the need of dentistry, but also the requirement of patients to the dental service industry, and is the trend of the

development of dentistry today. While setting up professional courses for dentistry students of different levels and cultivating clinical skills, dental schools cannot omit medical students' self-development and doctor-patient communication skills to cultivate high-end medical talents in all aspects and equip them with the ability to discover beauty and create beauty. Lead peers and the public to the right path of medical beauty, become a dental professional with conscience and temperature, the future dental industry will certainly have greater development.

## Conflicts of Interest

All the authors do not have any possible conflicts of interest.

## Acknowledgements

Fund: This research was funded by Education Department of Hainan Province (Hnjg2021-60), Course Construction Project of Hainan Medical University (HYJW202117), Marxism Theory Discipline Research Project of Hainan Medical University (QMYKYLX201807), Research Project of Hainan Provincial Humanities Medical Research Base (QRYZH201811 (YB), High-level Talents Project of Hainan Natural Science Foundation (821RC687), Innovative Entrepreneurial Training Program of Hainan Medical University (S20211810012).

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