



RESEARCH ARTICLE

THE IRREPLACEABLE ROLE OF TRADITION IN MODERN EDUCATION: A GLOBAL VIEW FROM CHINA

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ARTICLE INFO	ABSTRACT
<p>Submission 14 Feb., 2025</p> <p>Acceptance 09 Mar., 2025</p> <p>Keywords</p> <p>Traditional Education; Modern Educational Innovation; Curriculum Integration; Educational Policy; Global Educational Practices</p> <p>Corresponding Author</p> <p>I24027219@student.newinti.edu.my</p>	<p>This study based on in-depth interviews with 20 education experts from Yulin First Senior High School and Guilin First and Second Senior High Schools in Guangxi, China, explores the irreplaceable role of traditional educational elements in modern education. The research examines the core value, integration, and effectiveness of these elements within innovative educational practices. Findings reveal that despite advancements in educational technology, traditional subjects such as history, ethics, philosophy, and classical literature remain fundamental to fostering humanistic literacy, value formation, and critical thinking. Furthermore, educators emphasize that the effective integration of tradition and modernity requires modular curriculum design, interdisciplinary collaboration, strategic technology use, and teacher capacity-building. By situating China's experience within a global context, this study highlights the universal significance of traditional education and offers practical policy recommendations for balancing heritage with educational innovation.</p>

1. INTRODUCTION

In recent years, global education reforms have generally increased the importance of traditional cultural education. Traditional educational elements still occupy an indispensable position in the modern education system due to their unique role in cultivating humanistic literacy, shaping values, and cultivating critical thinking abilities. However, how to meet the needs of modern innovation while passing on tradition remains an important issue in the field of education that needs to be resolved urgently.

Globally, many countries are promoting educational innovation by integrating tradition and modernity. For example, India's National Education Policy 2020 (NEP 2020) reshapes the goal of educational inclusiveness through multilingual teaching and cultural programs (Shinde et al., 2024); and Colombia introduces traditional knowledge programs in rural education to strengthen the sense of cultural belonging (Monterroza & Solano, 2024).

This paper explores the core values of traditional educational elements and their deep integration with modern educational innovations through the study of educational practices in Guangxi, China, and international case studies, in order to provide theoretical and practical guidance for educational reform.

1.1. Research Background

In the 21st century with the rapid development of globalization and informationization, the education system is undergoing profound changes. Technological advances and diversified social needs have promoted educational innovation, but also brought the challenge of how traditional educational elements can function in the modern system. Several countries have made positive attempts to retain and innovate traditional educational elements, resulting in different models of practice:

Asia: India's National Education Policy 2020 (NEP 2020) emphasizes the promotion of holistic development of students through ethical curricula and multilingual education (Shinde et al., 2024); and Japan reinforces students' cultural identity through traditional curricula such as the Shudo and Tea Ceremony (Setyawan & Dopo, 2020).

USA: rural schools in Colombia incorporate traditional knowledge into the curriculum to help students understand cultural roots (Monterroza & Solano, 2024); Mexico passes on traditional crafts through community-based programs to enhance students' hands-on skills (Reyes-Samilpa et al., 2020).

Europe: the Classical Education Revival Program in the United Kingdom strengthens students' logical thinking skills through courses in philosophy, geometry, and other subjects (Reimers, 2021); and Finland's interdisciplinary curriculum explores the relevance of history to the future (Hakala & Kujala, 2021).

Although countries around the globe have accumulated some experience in integrating traditional and modern education, these practices are mostly dependent on their respective cultural contexts and societal needs. Especially in China, traditional education elements are deeply rooted in history and culture, and their status and role in the modern education system need to be further clarified. Through the analysis of educational practices in Guangxi, this study attempts to answer the following questions: how do traditional educational elements maintain their core values in a rapidly changing society? How to realize the effective integration of traditional and modern education through innovative practices? These questions are not only important for China, but also provide reference samples for global education reform.

1.2. Research Objectives

In order to explore the modern value and practice of traditional education, this study centers on the following objectives:

RO1: Exploring the Core Values and Irreplaceability of Traditional Elements in Modern Education.

RO2: Evaluate the Degree and Effectiveness of Integration of Traditional Elements in Innovative Educational Practices.

2. LITERATURE REVIEW

2.1. Core Values of Traditional Education

Traditional educational elements serve as the foundation for logical thinking, ethical development, and cultural identity. Across different regions, these elements continue to shape students' values, problem-solving skills, and national identity.

2.1.1. Ethical Concepts and Cultural Identity

China: Chinese characters embody the nation's rich cultural heritage and serve as a medium for passing down traditional values. Qufu Experimental Primary School successfully integrates Confucian educational principles with modern teaching to cultivate students with deep cultural literacy (Bahtilla & Xu, 2021; Cao, 2024).

India: Classical texts such as the Bhagavad Gita foster students' social responsibility by embedding ethical and moral teachings into education, thereby shaping their values (Bansal & Srivastava, 2024).

2.1.2. Logic and Critical Thinking Skills

Global Perspective: Geometry and classical mathematics courses are fundamental in developing students' logical reasoning and problem-solving abilities. These subjects reinforce abstract thinking and critical analysis through structured logical proof and rigorous reasoning (Gao & Zhang, 2023).

2.2. Integration of Traditional and Modern Education

Many countries actively integrate traditional educational elements with modern teaching methods, leveraging technology and innovative pedagogies to preserve and enhance traditional learning.

2.2.1. Integration Practices in Asia

India: The NEP 2020 reform blends classical curricula with modern pedagogy, incorporating project-based learning (PBL) to enhance the effectiveness of traditional education (Eswaran, 2024; Nayak et al., 2024).

Japan: Virtual and augmented reality technologies are used in Shudo and history courses to recreate historical scenes, allowing students to experience cultural heritage more intuitively (Setyawan & Dopo, 2020).

China: Studies indicate that 230 textbook learning units focus on fostering national pride, with 77.1% emphasizing Chinese cultural artifacts, effectively embedding traditional elements within modern education (Kim, 2024).

2.2.2. Integration Practices in Other Regions

United Kingdom: A modularized classical education approach integrates traditional curricula with digital tools. Virtual reality recreates classical literature scenes, enhancing student engagement (Lee, 2024).

United States: Numerous public and private classical schools incorporate historical and cultural curricula to strengthen students' cultural literacy and historical awareness. Students are also encouraged to engage in community service to build social responsibility (Richardi, 2022).

Australia: The education system supports the integration of Indigenous Knowledge Systems (IKS) into higher education, combining traditional knowledge with modern pedagogical methods to enhance student learning outcomes (Keane et al., 2023).

Ethiopia: A qualitative study highlights Ethiopia's seventeen-century-old indigenous education system, which remains a vital source of indigenous knowledge and traditional learning (Demssie et al., 2020).

2.3. Interview Results for This Study

This study also draws on the results of interviews with 20 education experts from the First Senior High School of Yulin City and the First and Second Senior High Schools of Guilin City in Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region. These experts agreed that traditional educational elements play an irreplaceable role in modern education, especially humanities subjects such as history, ethics, philosophy, and classical literature, which are regarded as the key to developing students' humanistic qualities, values, and critical thinking skills. They emphasized the irreplaceable nature of traditional curricula in the modern education system and suggested that the holistic development of students could be promoted through the strategy of integrating innovation and tradition (Interview data).

In summary, traditional education elements have important value in value cultivation, cultural heritage and critical thinking ability enhancement. Through the innovative practice of

combining traditional educational elements with modern teaching methods, countries are actively exploring educational models that meet the development needs of the times. These practices have not only enriched the content and form of education, but also improved the quality and effect of education, providing strong support for the cultivation of talents with innovative spirit and practical ability.

3. METHODOLOGY AND PROCEDURES

This study adopts a comprehensive qualitative research methodology, covering the research design, data collection methods, sample selection, and data analysis technique. It aims to deeply explore the core of traditional educational elements in the modern education system in terms of their core. It aims to explore the core value of traditional education elements in the modern education system and its integration path with modern education innovation.

3.1. Research Design

This study follows an interpretive case study design, combining in-depth interviews, literature review, and case study analysis to explore in depth the educational practices of the First Senior High School of Yulin City and the First and Second Senior High Schools of Guilin City in Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region, China. Interpretive case studies allow us to dissect complex phenomena in specific contexts in detail, providing rich background information and in-depth understanding for this study.

3.2. Data Collection

This study conducted in-depth interviews with 20 education experts from three high schools in Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region, China. These experts have 5 to 18 years of rich teaching experience. The interview adopts a semi-structured interview format, focusing on the following core questions:

3.2.1. Core Values of Traditional Educational Elements

Which traditional courses or educational concepts are considered irreplaceable in the current teaching process?

How does traditional education affect students' humanistic literacy, logical thinking, and critical thinking abilities?

3.2.2. Integration of Traditional Education and Modern Education

Do you have any cases in your teaching practice that combine traditional educational methods with modern technology?

Has modern technology (such as digital tools, AI, blended learning, etc.) had a positive impact on traditional courses?

3.2.3. Challenges and Future Development of Traditional Education

What are the main challenges faced by traditional education in the modern education system?

How to better protect and promote traditional educational elements in future education reforms?

Interview implementation process: The interview adopts a combination of online and offline methods, with each interview lasting 40-60 minutes. All interview content has been recorded, transcribed, and organized using Excel for topic relevance analysis. Ensure anonymity during the interview process and improve the reliability of interview data through expert review.

Data Validity in Interviews: The semi-structured format allowed for flexibility in probing deeper into participants' experiences and perspectives, enhancing the validity of the collected data (Buys et al., 2022). Additionally, the use of recording and transcription ensured accuracy in capturing participants' responses.

3.2.4. Literature Review

This study extensively reviews relevant literature on the integration of traditional and modern education at home and abroad, including journal articles, books, policy documents and reports. By combing and analyzing existing studies, this study establishes a research framework, clarifies the core value of traditional education elements, and summarizes the successful experiences and challenges of integrating traditional and modern education in various countries. The extensive review of literature from diverse sources provided a robust foundation for the study, ensuring the reliability of the theoretical framework and the integration of existing knowledge.

3.2.5. Case Analysis

In addition to conducting in-depth interviews and literature reviews with 20 experts, this study also referred to several typical cases from around the world for in-depth analysis. These cases cover practical explorations of integrating traditional and modern education in different countries and regions, including India's 2020 national education policy, Japan's temple curriculum project, and the UK's classical education revival plan.

By conducting data triangulation on selected cases from different countries and regions, this study was able to cross validate the results of interviews, thereby improving the effectiveness of the research (Sridharan, 2021).

3.3. Data Analysis

This study used topic coding method to systematically analyze interview data collected through a combination of online and offline interview methods. Initially, all online and offline interview recordings were carefully transcribed using professional software to ensure accuracy. Subsequently, the data was thoroughly encoded and divided into three main thematic units, maintaining consistency in applying encoding rules to ensure reliability. The use of NVivo

software promotes system analysis and maintains the objectivity of the coding process. In addition, the reliability of the research conclusions was further verified by comparing the interview data with a large number of domestic and foreign literature.

To ensure the validity and reliability of the research data, multiple validation methods were employed in this study:

Triangulation of Data Sources: This study integrates three primary data collection methods—semi-structured interviews, extensive literature review, and international case study analysis. The combination of these methods ensures that findings are supported by diverse and corroborating sources, reducing potential bias.

Expert Review and Validation: The 20 education experts interviewed, all of whom have extensive teaching and research experience, reviewed key findings to verify their accuracy and relevance to contemporary educational practices. Their feedback was incorporated to refine the conclusions and policy recommendations.

Systematic Data Coding and Analysis: The interview transcripts were analyzed using NVivo software, ensuring a structured and reproducible coding process. Thematic analysis was conducted to identify recurring patterns and key insights, improving the consistency of data interpretation.

Anonymity and Privacy Protection: In line with research ethics protocols, all interview participants were assured full anonymity. Personal identifiers were removed, and data confidentiality measures were strictly enforced to protect the integrity of the responses and encourage open discussion.

Cross-Validation with International Cases: To further enhance reliability, this study compared findings from Guangxi with global best practices in countries such as India, Japan, Finland, and the United Kingdom, ensuring that the identified integration strategies are both locally relevant and globally applicable.

3.4. Research Ethics

This study strictly adheres to research ethics principles to ensure that the rights and interests of each participant are fully protected. Before conducting the interview, the researchers explained in detail the research objectives, specific methods, and ways of using the data to the participants, and obtained their signed informed consent forms. During the data collection and analysis process, researchers strictly protect the privacy and anonymity of participants, and ensure that all information is used only for research purposes.

3.5. Study Limitations and Future Perspectives

Despite the efforts made in data collection and analysis in this study, some limitations remain. For example, the relatively small sample size may not fully represent the views of all

education experts; the interview results may be affected by participants' personal experiences and cognitive biases. Future research could expand the sample size, adopt more diversified data collection methods (e.g., questionnaires, observation methods, etc.), and incorporate quantitative analysis methods in order to further validate and expand the findings of this study.

4. RESULTS

In this study, 20 education experts from Guangxi Province, China, almost unanimously affirmed that traditional educational elements such as history, ethics, philosophy, and classical literature are essential to the development of students' humanistic literacy, values, and critical thinking. This study's findings reaffirm the irreplaceable role of traditional education elements in modern pedagogy. Insights from 20 education experts in Guangxi, China, reveal that subjects like history, ethics, philosophy, and classical literature remain crucial for shaping students' humanistic literacy, values, and critical thinking abilities. Despite the rise of digital learning, these foundational disciplines retain their relevance in an evolving educational landscape. The following table 4.1 will introduce the background of the experts.

Table 4.1: Demographic of Interviewees

Interviewee	Gender	School	Years of Teaching Experience
A1	Male	Guangxi Yulin First High School	10
A2	Female	Guangxi Yulin First High School	15
A3	Female	Guangxi Yulin First High School	12
A4	Male	Guangxi Yulin First High School	9
A5	Male	Guangxi Yulin First High School	8
A6	Female	Guangxi Yulin First High School	9
A7	Male	Guangxi Yulin First High School	18
A8	Female	Guangxi Yulin First High School	6
A9	Female	Guangxi Yulin First High School	5
A10	Female	Guangxi Yulin First High School	8
A11	Male	Guangxi Guilin First High School	7
A12	Male	Guangxi Guilin First High School	11
A13	Male	Guangxi Guilin Second High School	7
A14	Male	Guangxi Guilin Second High School	9
A15	Female	Guangxi Guilin Second High School	10
A16	Female	Guangxi Guilin Second High School	7
A17	Female	Guangxi Guilin Second High School	6

A18	Female	Guangxi Guilin Second High School	10
A19	Male	Guangxi Guilin Second High School	10
A20	Male	Guangxi Guilin Second High School	9

4.1. Core Value of Traditional Education Elements

Interview responses indicate a strong consensus on the necessity of traditional subjects in cognitive and ethical development. Specifically, all 20 respondents emphasized the irreplaceable importance of the traditional curriculum in the modern education system.

“History, ethics education, and classic texts are core to student cognitive development. i ensure we delve deeply into these topics in classroom discussions.”

A1 (2024/10/10)

“Classical subjects, such as math, history, and literature, teach fundamental skills that modern innovations should build upon rather than replace.”

A3 (2024/10/10)

“Philosophy classes teach students how to ask the right questions. this is essential even in today's fast-changing world.”

A7 (2024/10/10)

These ideas suggest that history, ethics education, and classical texts form the core of students' cognitive development. By delving into the content of the classical curriculum through classroom discussions, students are able to acquire critical thinking and questioning skills, which are especially important in the rapidly changing modern world. For example, NEP 2020 in India promotes ethical education through classical texts to help students develop a sense of social responsibility and cultural identity.

However, some educators highlighted challenges in engagement:

“Students struggle to see the relevance of traditional subjects in modern society, and this makes engagement hard.”

A5 (2024/10/10)

“I feel that some traditional content lacks practical value and could be replaced with modern approaches.”

A9 (2024/10/10)

“While tradition is valuable, students need tools that prepare them for the future, not just the past.”

A10 (2024/10/10)

This feedback points to the fact that traditional elements may appear rigid in their use in the curriculum, with insufficient articulation with the needs of modern society. Some teachers or students are not able to integrate traditional elements 100% with actual learning. Modern teaching strategies should enhance the applicability of traditional content, such as incorporating digital resources and real-world applications.

4.2. Strategies for Integrating Innovation and Tradition

During the interviews, interviewees proposed a variety of strategies to ensure the deep integration of traditional and modern educational content in curriculum design, covering four key areas: modularized curriculum design, interdisciplinary cooperation, introduction of technology, and improvement of teachers' competence.

4.2.1. Modularized Curriculum Design:

Modular design becomes an effective means of balancing traditional and modern content, providing flexible and personalized learning paths:

"We use modular curriculum design, allowing students to explore traditional and modern concepts through flexible pathways."

A4 (2024/10/10)

"I design modules so that students can explore at their own pace, and this blends old and new teaching philosophies well."

A18 (2024/10/10)

"Modular approaches reduce content overload while ensuring core traditional values are preserved."

A6 (2024/10/10)

Modular course design provides students with a flexible learning path, enabling them to explore traditional and modern content, effectively avoiding content overload while preserving core values. This strategy is also reflected in the revival plan of classical education in the UK, for example, the philosophy curriculum adopts modular design, and its flexible structure successfully integrates traditional and modern content, greatly stimulating students' interest in learning.

4.2.2. Interdisciplinary Collaboration

Interdisciplinary collaboration not only broadens the application areas of traditional courses, but also opens up new learning perspectives and ways of thinking for students.

"I combine traditional ethics with modern science cases. it's amazing how students link historical dilemmas to today's ethical issues."

A2 (2024/10/10)

“Collaboration with other subject teachers brings new perspectives, making traditional topics more engaging for students.”

A10 (2024/10/10)

By combining ethics courses with modern scientific cases, students analyze historical ethical dilemmas while reflecting on contemporary social issues. Collaborating with faculty from other disciplines to introduce diverse perspectives can make traditional courses more engaging.

4.2.3. Gradual Introduction of Technology

The introduction of technology has an important role in modernizing the traditional curriculum, but it needs to be implemented carefully:

“I use blended learning methods, combining traditional content with digital tools to maximize engagement.”

A5 (2024/10/10)

“New tech should not overwhelm traditional teaching; instead, it should complement and enhance it.”

A13 (2024/10/10)

Blended learning approaches combine traditional content with digital tools to enhance classroom engagement through technology. In educational practice in the United States, augmented reality is used to recreate scenes of historical events, supporting the visualization and teaching of traditional courses. However, the application of technology needs to pay attention to the harmonization with the core values of traditional teaching.

4.2.4. Teacher's Ability Enhancement

Teachers' ability enhancement is the key to integrating traditional and modern courses:

“Training programs helped me to rethink my approach, ensuring I respect tradition while being innovative.”

A7 (2024/10/10)

“Reflective teaching practices allow me to balance modern demands and traditional values.”

A11 (2024/10/10)

Professional training and reflective teaching practices allow teachers to find a balance between traditional and modern demands by introducing innovative approaches while respecting tradition.

4.3. Comparison of Practices and Insights from a Global Perspective

NEP 2020 promotes the modernization of traditional curricula through intensive teacher professional development, such as teacher training programs that emphasize multilingual teaching and interdisciplinary collaboration (Shinde et al., 2024). This is conceptually similar to the modular curriculum design emphasized by teachers in Guangxi, which ensures the organic integration of tradition and modernity through individualized pathways.

4.3.1. The Universality of Traditional Education in a Global Context

The interview results indicate that the emphasis on traditional cultural and ethical values in Guangxi education is highly consistent with the direction of educational reform in other countries around the globe:

“History, ethics education, and classic texts are core to student cognitive development. I ensure we delve deeply into these topics in classroom discussions.”

A1 (2024/10/10)

“Students respond well when traditions are presented with modern tools. it bridges generational gaps effectively.”

A10 (2024/10/10)

Traditional curriculum, especially history and ethics education, has always been regarded as a core element in promoting students' cognitive development, and this concept is particularly evident in India's current education reform. The new National Education Policy (NEP 2020) implemented in India cleverly adopts a case-based teaching method, organically integrating classic texts with moral education, aiming to cultivate students' sense of social responsibility and deepen their cultural identity.

Similarly, in the educational practice in Guangxi, we have also seen significant advantages in using modern tools to impart traditional content. Reproducing historical scenes through multimedia technology not only makes learning content more vivid and interesting, but also helps to bridge the cultural gap between generations and achieve cultural inheritance and understanding. This innovative strategy coincides with the approach of the British Classical Education Renaissance Plan, which also uses virtual reality technology to present classical literary scenes, setting an example for the innovation of traditional education forms worldwide. These practices collectively demonstrate that traditional education is constantly seeking to integrate with modern technology on a global scale, in order to inherit and develop in more diverse and vivid ways.

4.3.2. International Comparison of Integration Strategies

Modular design and interdisciplinary collaboration have become important trends in global education reform, and Guangxi's educational practices in this field are highly aligned with international experience, demonstrating unique localization characteristics on this basis.

“We use modular curriculum design, allowing students to explore traditional and modern concepts through flexible pathways.”

A4 (2024/10/10)

Modular curriculum design provides students with flexible and diverse learning opportunities, enabling them to delve deeper into traditional and modern concepts. This method coincides with Finland's educational practice. In interdisciplinary curriculum design in Finland, educators customize personalized learning paths based on students' interests, cleverly combining history with future themes, and inspiring students to adopt inquiry based learning methods to gain a deeper understanding of complex problems. This modular design not only effectively avoids content overload, but also successfully preserves the core values of traditional courses.

“I combine traditional ethics with modern science cases. it's amazing how students link historical dilemmas to today's ethical issues.”

A2 (2024/10/10)

Interdisciplinary collaboration can combine traditional ethics courses with modern science issues to help students reflect on contemporary society while analyzing historical ethical dilemmas. This strategy mirrors Japan's approach to interdisciplinary cultural curriculum reform. For example, by combining traditional art forms with technological innovations, Japan has enhanced students' interest in and ability to apply course content. This strategy illustrates the potential of interdisciplinary collaboration, which not only provides students with new perspectives on learning, but also replicates Guangxi's successful experience in international education.

4.3.3. Inspiration and Limitations of Technology Introduction

Technology is recognized as an important tool for achieving the integration of traditional and modern education. However, the interviews revealed that the strategies and actual results in the use of technology varied from country to country:

“I use blended learning methods, combining traditional content with digital tools to maximize engagement.”

A5 (2024/10/10)

Blended learning methods significantly increase student engagement by combining traditional content with digital tools. This is similar to the introduction of augmented reality (AR) technology in high school history courses in the United States. By recreating historical events through virtual scenarios, U.S. practice has shown that technology can significantly enhance the visualization and pedagogical effectiveness of traditional curricula.

“New tech should not overwhelm traditional teaching; instead, it should complement and enhance it.”

A13 (2024/10/10)

However, the interviews also emphasized that the introduction of technology needs to be used as a complement to traditional teaching and not a complete replacement. Education reform needs to be vigilant about the negative impact of excessive reliance on technology on traditional educational content. Although technology can improve classroom efficiency and student interest, successful integration requires careful design to ensure coordination with traditional content. The professional development of teachers is crucial, and regular training can help them master the best practices of balancing technology and tradition.

4.3.4. Lessons Learned from a Global Perspective

The diversified strategy of educational practice in Guangxi has provided valuable experience for global education reform:

Modular curriculum design: Guangxi has successfully balanced traditional and modern curriculum through flexible learning paths, which is in line with the education reform direction of countries such as the UK and Finland, demonstrating the effectiveness of modular design in integrating tradition and modernity.

Interdisciplinary cooperation: By combining traditional content with modern skills, Guangxi provides students with a multidimensional learning experience, enriches course content, opens up new learning perspectives, and reflects the important role of interdisciplinary cooperation in educational innovation.

Moderate introduction of technology: Guangxi emphasizes that while strengthening classroom participation, technology should be used as a supplement to traditional courses rather than a leader, ensuring that core values are not weakened.

The practice in Guangxi has shown that the core of education reform lies in integrating tradition and modernity according to local conditions, while drawing on international experience and combining it with local practices to explore a path of educational innovation with global reference significance. This not only enhances students' cultural identity and social responsibility, but also provides a practical model for education reform in developing countries.

5. DISCUSSION

This study emphasizes the complementarity between traditional education and modern education, pointing out that they should not replace each other, but should coordinate and integrate with each other. The research results indicate that to achieve successful integration of traditional and modern education on a global scale, multiple strategies need to be adopted, including curriculum design, teacher training, policy adjustments, and technological innovation.

5.1. The Complementary Relationship Between Tradition and Modernity

Since the implementation of the NEP 2020 in India, the enrollment rate of rural primary and secondary school students has increased by 12.5%, especially among low-income families (Shinde et al., 2024). This trend coincides with the practice of strengthening traditional ethics and critical

thinking education in rural education in Guangxi, jointly refuting the outdated view of traditional education. Research has shown that history, ethics courses, and classical texts are crucial in cultivating students' analytical reasoning skills and cultural awareness. India's NEP 2020 policy has successfully integrated classical texts into ethics education, and the UK's Classical Education Renaissance Plan combines classical philosophy with digital learning tools. These practices not only demonstrate the fundamental role of traditional education in promoting cognitive and moral development, but also demonstrate how traditional content can continue to thrive in the new era through policy adjustments, curriculum design innovations, and technological applications, meeting contemporary teaching needs.

5.2. Transforming the Role of Educators in Blended Pedagogies

Teachers play a crucial role in integrating traditional and innovative educational practices. The research results clearly indicate the necessity of providing professional development plans for educators to enhance interdisciplinary skills and technical proficiency. The interviewed experts unanimously emphasized that modular curriculum design and blended learning models implemented in Guangxi require highly trained educators to ensure that students can meaningfully participate in the learning of traditional and modern content. From an international perspective, Finland's teacher training program provides valuable experience and inspiration for educators on how to efficiently promote interdisciplinary learning, further demonstrating the central role of teacher professional development in driving educational innovation.

5.3. Challenges in Integrating Traditional and Modern Education

Despite the numerous benefits, several challenges impede the smooth integration of traditional and modern education:

Policy Challenges: Numerous education systems are devoid of clear policies outlining how traditional subjects should be seamlessly integrated with modern curricula, resulting in inconsistencies during implementation.

Pedagogical Challenges: Certain educators find it challenging to make traditional content captivating for students, highlighting the need for innovative instructional approaches.

Technological Challenges: Although technology has the potential to enrich traditional learning experiences, an over-reliance on digital tools poses a risk of diluting core educational values.

5.4. Research Limitations

While this study offers valuable insights, it is important to acknowledge certain limitations:

Sample Size and Geographic Scope: The research is based on expert interviews conducted in Guangxi, which may not comprehensively represent national or global perspectives. To gain a more holistic view, future studies should broaden the sample to encompass a wider geographic range.

Qualitative Data Constraints: The study primarily relies on qualitative interviews, which could potentially introduce subjective biases. To bolster the robustness of findings, future research should incorporate quantitative data analysis methods.

Lack of Longitudinal Data: As a cross-sectional study, this research does not track changes over time. Conducting longitudinal studies would offer deeper insights into the long-term impact of integrating traditional and modern education on student outcomes.

5.5. Future Research Directions

Future research should focus on broadening the scope of traditional and modern education fusion by tackling these key areas:

Cross-cultural comparisons: Looking at how different countries balance traditional and modern education can give us insights into adaptable and effective integration strategies.

Teacher training and development: Further studies should examine how interdisciplinary and tech-enhanced teacher training programs impact blended learning.

Long-term student outcomes: Evaluating the long-term effects of incorporating traditional elements into curricula will help determine their effectiveness in boosting critical thinking, cultural literacy, and academic performance.

Strategic use of educational technology: Future research should explore frameworks to ensure technology complements traditional education, not replaces it.

6. CONCLUSION

This study provides empirical evidence to further confirm the indispensable role of traditional education in modern education. Through the insights of 20 experts and qualitative analysis of international comparative studies, it is shown that combining traditional educational elements with modern innovation can enhance students' cognitive abilities, ethical reasoning, and cultural identity. However, effective integration requires structural reforms in curriculum design, teacher training, and technology application.

6.1. Key Contributions and Implications

Preserving Core Educational Values: Traditional disciplines such as history, philosophy, and ethics remain essential for fostering critical thinking, moral development, and national identity. Interview results indicate that these subjects provide a foundation that modern educational methods should enhance rather than replace.

Modular Curriculum Design for Balanced Learning: Findings suggest that modular curriculum approaches, as implemented in some Guangxi schools, offer a viable framework for blending classical content with contemporary pedagogical strategies. This model aligns with the

UK's Classical Education Revival Program and Finland's flexible interdisciplinary education model.

Technology as a Supplement, Not a Replacement: While digital tools such as virtual reality and AI-driven educational software can enhance engagement, they must be used strategically. Interviewees emphasized the importance of balancing technology with traditional instructional methods to prevent superficial learning experiences.

Interdisciplinary collaboration and teacher development: According to experts' insights, the effective integration of tradition and innovation lies in the depth and breadth of knowledge reserves of the employed teachers. Therefore, training programs for teachers should not only focus on their respective disciplines, but also take into account interdisciplinary teaching strategies, similar to India's NEP 2020 framework.

6.2. Policy Recommendations

To optimize the integration of traditional and modern education, the following policy measures should be considered:

Structured Teacher Training Initiatives: Develop continuous professional development programs focused on integrating traditional subjects with modern methodologies. This includes blended learning strategies and interdisciplinary curriculum planning.

Equitable Implementation of Modular Curriculum Models: Schools should adopt adaptable, modular courses that ensure traditional content remains relevant while allowing for personalized learning paths.

Strategic Use of Digital Tools: Policymakers should provide clear guidelines on the role of technology in education, ensuring that its use complements, rather than replaces, foundational knowledge.

Enhancing Rural Education Accessibility: Given the disparities between urban and rural educational resources, efforts should be made to expand access to quality traditional education through targeted rural development programs.

Global Collaboration for Best Practices: Establishing partnerships with international education systems that have successfully merged tradition with innovation can provide valuable insights into effective policy implementation.

6.3. Future Research Directions

While this study highlights critical pathways for integrating traditional and modern educational practices, further research is needed in the following areas:

Longitudinal impact assessment of modular and interdisciplinary curriculum models on student learning outcomes.

Comparative analyses of successful integration strategies across different educational contexts to refine best practices.

Empirical studies on teacher training effectiveness in equipping educators with the skills needed to balance tradition and innovation.

The findings of this study underscore that traditional education, when innovatively adapted, remains a cornerstone of intellectual and ethical development. The strategic integration of traditional elements with modern pedagogical approaches offers a sustainable model for educational reform, ensuring that students develop both deep cultural literacy and future-oriented competencies. Moving forward, the proposed policy recommendations and research directions can serve as a foundation for enhancing the synergy between tradition and innovation in global education systems.

CONFLICT STATEMENT

The authors declare no conflict of interest.

COOPERATION STATEMENT

The author affirms that this research was conducted independently and that no other individuals contributed to its authorship.

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