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## CULTIVATING LEADERSHIP IN FUTURE EDUCATORS: EXPLORING THE TRANSFORMATIVE ROLE OF MENTORSHIP

This study investigates the transformative role of mentorship in cultivating leadership skills among future educators. By examining current literature and empirical data, it becomes evident that structured mentorship programs significantly enhance various leadership competencies (Johnson & Smith, 2023). The research employs a mixed-methods approach, combining surveys with in-depth interviews conducted across diverse educational settings to explore the impact of mentorship on leadership skill development (Brown & Clarke, 2023). Findings highlight that consistent and goal-oriented mentorship fosters a growth mindset, encourages reflective practice, and promotes resilience—all essential attributes for effective leadership (Davis & Johnson, 2024). Furthermore, the study underscores the importance of cultural competence and inclusive practices within mentorship frameworks to address the needs of a heterogeneous student body (Garcia & Lee, 2023). By presenting successful case studies and proposing actionable

recommendations, this paper advocates for the integration of robust mentorship systems as a cornerstone of teacher education programs, ultimately contributing to the cultivation of transformative leaders in the field of education (Martinez & Wilson, 2023).

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## **RESEARCH ON PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT OF MUSIC TEACHERS IN MINORITY AREAS IN NORTHWEST CHINA FROM THE PERSPECTIVE OF LOCAL KNOWLEDGE**

Music embodies culture and culture contains music. As a special culture, education is not only a component of culture, but also an important means to protect, inherit and create culture. For music teachers in the northwest minority areas, their biggest and most special advantage is to make full use of their own «local knowledge» to improve their professional development, and seek professional survival and accurate positioning in the context of resource sharing. Yugu is a small ethnic group with a small population but the highest education among all ethnic groups. It has a profound cultural heritage and rich artistic resources. Yugu people are «able to speak, sing, walk and dance.» As a unique educational resource, «local knowledge» can not only provide a special and effective constructive way for the professional development of music teachers, but also provide artistic support and contribution to the inheritance carrier for the developed oral inheritance of Yugu people who have language and no words.

Under the guidance of relevant theoretical documents, this study uses «qualitative research» as the main research method, and «quantitative research» as the auxiliary research method, and takes researchers as research tools to systematically investigate the following four phenomena in Sunan Yugu area under natural circumstances. The