

Using Confucianism to Reform Chinese Education

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Abstract—Education is the bottom line of social conscience, the pure land of human soul, the foundation of a country and the foundation of a powerful country. In the greatest sense, education is any behavior or experience that affects a person's thought, character or physical ability. This paper introduces the characteristics and shortcomings of Chinese family education, school education and social education in detail, and puts forward relevant suggestions to promote the development of education. The author hopes to help us better understand the core purpose of education, help us know ourselves, help the nation know themselves, so as to control their own destiny and create the future of the country.

Index Terms—Confucianism, family education, school education, social education, reform in education

I. INTRODUCTION

Education is the bottom line of social conscience, the pure land of human soul, the foundation of a country and the foundation of a powerful country. In the greatest sense, education is any behavior or experience that affects a person's thought, character or physical ability. From a technical point of view, education is a process in which the society intentionally passes on its accumulated knowledge, skills and values from generation to generation. What is the significance of education? In other words, what can education bring us? A good education is not only to impart knowledge to people, but also to improve personal cultivation and enhance the awareness of life, so as to better understand themselves and constantly improve themselves. In my opinion, this is the core purpose of education and the beacon of hope that guides us forward. Education is to help us know ourselves and the nation, so that we can master our own destiny and create the future of our country.

II. CHINESE EDUCATION FROM ANCIENT TO MODERN

In China, the imperial examination system is one of the longest lasting systems in Chinese history, which lasted 1300 years from Sui Dynasty to Qing Dynasty. The imperial examination was divided into four parts: local examination, provincial examination, joint examination and imperial examination. There is an old Chinese saying: "No one knows your efforts in the past ten years, but once you achieve something, everyone in the world will

remember your name." In ancient times, Chinese traditional education paid more attention to moral cultivation and inheritance between teachers and students. The purpose of education is to train officials at all levels needed by the ruling class. The imperial examination system was not abolished until the Qing Dynasty. It lasted for 1300 years in history and became an important way to select talents [1].

After that, since 1952, China has implemented the college entrance examination system. The college entrance examination system has been established since 1952. So far, the college entrance examination in China has lasted for 68 years, with 10.72 million people taking part in it. Why do Chinese attach so much importance to examinations? There is an old saying in China: knowledge changes destiny. Due to the influence of Chinese traditional thought, the Chinese people believe that "Education is more valuable than anything else." Chinese parents do not want their children to be as mediocre as themselves, so they place their hopes on reading and passing exams to get rid of class bondage.

III. FAMILY EDUCATION IN CHINA

A. Characteristics of Family Education in China

Family education plays a very important role in our growth from birth, it can make people have a good character and personality. A good family education can let us learn to be happy, learn to be independent, and learn something from failure. In ancient times, China's emphasis on education was reflected in many aspects, such as the classic story "three migrations of Meng Mu". In order to have a good learning environment for Mencius, Mencius mother moved three times. In ancient times, only noble people could afford to go to school. The purpose of learning was to be the number one scholar in the examination and to be an official in politics. In modern China, family education is to recruit all kinds of extra-curricular classes for children, hire the best teachers for them, and cultivate their various specialties. The purpose is to win at the starting line and enter a good university in the future [2].

The purpose of children's learning is to get a higher degree, find a good job and repay their parents' kindness, not for the current spiritual needs, nor for the cultivation of their own personality [3]. In China, the most prominent feature of family education is that parents place all their

hopes on their children, hoping to cultivate talents. Parents don't have much time to talk and play games with their children, and they don't pay much attention to their children's inner world [4].

B. *The Shortcoming of Modern Family Education*

As we all know, family education is an important part of training children to have good character. In China, there are many shortcomings in family education.

Firstly, overindulge and neglect the cultivation of non intelligence factors [5]. Many parents in accordance with their own way of thinking, seriously stifled the child's psychological, emotional, will and interest and other non-intellectual factors. From the age of three or four or even earlier, parents began to order their children to learn Chinese characters, read and recite Tang poetry, practice arithmetic. They ignore children's naughty nature, blindly learn knowledge, blindly and orderly education, and ignore children's self-esteem, self-confidence, perseverance, innovation ability and other non-intellectual factors. But children are children after all. Although there are countless reasons in their young hearts, how can they find excuses to challenge and oppose their parents' dignity with big eyes, big fists and traditional Chinese culture?

Secondly, there is no independent personality. Since ancient times, Chinese people have no lack of wisdom, but there is no doubt that we lack innovation, adaptability and competitiveness [6]. Parents are children's first teachers, but if our teachers suffer from a kind of psychological violence since childhood, and the old ideas can't be updated with the development of society, when the main responsibility of education falls on them again, how terrible the treatment we enjoy will be! It can be said responsibly that our children have not established an independent personality under the cultivation of the first teacher. This is not the fault of parents, but the sorrow of Chinese family education.

Thirdly, material stimulation is induced by money worship in disguise [7]. Children who grow up under Chinese family education are not unfamiliar with the word material stimulation. It is understood that if the child scores more than 90 points in the exam, parents will buy the child airplane toys and yogurt; If the children can enter the top ten of the class, they will get hundreds of yuan reward. On the contrary, the methods are different, but the stimulating effects are surprisingly similar. When the pursuit of outlook on life turns into greed for material, how can we talk about independent competitive consciousness and sound personality? In children's minds, this is a disguised inducement of money worship. Perhaps it is from this moment that the curtain of corruption has quietly opened.

IV. SCHOOL EDUCATION IN CHINA

A. *The Characteristics of Chinese School Education*

A good school education can make students produce more ideas, cultivate students' innovation ability, exploration ability and thinking ability, and cultivate

students' ability to find and solve problems. It is very important to have a good university that respects students' thoughts and pays attention to cultivating students' innovation ability, exploration ability and thinking ability. In other words, a good university can combine knowledge teaching with intellectual development [8]. In China, the collective interests of students are more important than individual interests in school education. In the classroom, teachers are generally the center, teachers teach students, students listen and take notes. Students seldom put forward opposite views. Schools emphasize scores and results, not learning methods and learning processes.

B. *The Shortcoming of School Education in China*

Firstly, it pays too much attention to the cultivation of students' knowledge theory, but neglects the cultivation of students' innovation ability [9]. In China, knowledge education is mainly completed by schools. The school has cultivated students' strong learning ability, writing ability and imitation ability. Through direct classroom teaching, students can acquire more knowledge and skills in a short time, but the proportion of people with innovative spirit and creativity, including those who have made great contributions to Chinese science or other fields, is very small.

Secondly, the only purpose of a student's study is to obtain a university degree [10]. This is a big defect, because the only purpose of knowledge education in China is to obtain a university degree. This kind of knowledge education is not to explore the world, not to improve themselves. When a person is 18 years old, his thought and behavior should be more mature, should have more thinking ability and discrimination ability. Students need to think about the purpose of learning and the major they are really interested in, and then work hard for it to achieve success. Not just for a job offer and a stable job.

V. SOCIAL EDUCATION IN CHINA

A. *The Characteristics of Chinese Social Education*

At present, China's social education invests a lot of money into some key schools, but takes little care of most ordinary schools. In this way, the schools that have been given priority care will accept the investment with ease, while most schools that have not been given priority care will abandon themselves, and their enthusiasm and enthusiasm will not be fully mobilized. Therefore, the poorer the area, the less investment in education, and the more economically developed the area, the more investment. There are still great differences between the East and the west, between the city and the countryside. In some big cities, primary education facilities are luxurious, while some rural primary schools do not even have basic facilities. Most of the students are excluded from further education, the majority of rural and underdeveloped areas of young people cannot receive good education, which is a huge waste of human resources.

B. *The Shortcoming of Social Education in China*

First, the current education puts too much emphasis on elite education, and a lot of funds are invested in key primary and secondary schools and key universities, while vocational middle schools and vocational education are in vain. In recent years, postgraduate entrance examination fever continues to heat up, in contrast, vocational training is not developed enough. In fact, most people take the university entrance examination and postgraduate entrance examination in order to find a good job. In addition to the Research Institute, most of the work does not require too deep theoretical knowledge. Students learn too much theoretical knowledge, but do not have working skills. On the one hand, this phenomenon causes great waste, on the other hand, it also makes it difficult for students to find a job. The lack of senior technicians and the difficulty in finding jobs for undergraduates all illustrate the harm of not paying attention to vocational education.

Second, at present, China's internal turnover is serious, and the threshold of all walks of life is higher and higher, especially in China's first tier cities. I understand that a university counselor, the position requires a doctor's degree or above, but in fact the counselor this position needs the ability is not too high, I think the undergraduate can be competent. In this kind of internal environment, there are many talents with sufficient ability who cannot get the ideal position because of their lack of academic qualifications, and have to bow to other positions, resulting in a great brain drain.

VI. WHAT NEEDS TO BE IMPROVED IN THE FUTURE IN CHINESE EDUCATION?

The whole society, including school teachers, parents, government officials and so on. Schools and families need to establish a correct outlook on education and talents, and support education reform with practical actions. Facing the future, China's prosperity depends not only on an excellent political and economic system, but also on a good education system, so that our next generation will have better competitiveness. For Chinese education, we can integrate traditional Confucianism with Chinese modern education mode.

A. *Improving Students' Moral Quality*

Education is mainly about how to learn how to be a person and form a sound personality and moral quality. The main cultivation method is self-cultivation, and the ultimate teaching purpose is "governing the country" and "pacifying the world" [9]. At present, most of the students' psychological quality and moral quality are low, and even some students can't stand the pressure of all parties and choose to commit suicide to escape. The basic reason for this phenomenon is that students lack traditional cultural spirit. In this case, family education ignores the cultivation of children's moral quality, and some schools are eager for quick success and instant benefits, which leads to the gradual weakening of most students' humanistic consciousness, and even many high intelligence and high-tech crimes. Therefore, the

traditional Confucian education thought of adult education can establish humanistic care for students, and fully put forward more people-oriented teaching concept and education work, so that students can understand more knowledge content at the same time, fully stimulate students' curiosity about knowledge content, and help children establish confidence and courage for the future. Finally, let the children grow up to be human.

B. *The Combination of Knowledge and Practice and Practical Application*

What Confucianism pursues is to put forward more requirements for students' Cultivation on the basis of the combination of learning and practice. The "gentleman" in Confucianism not only needs to ensure the unity of knowledge and practice, but also needs to have a higher sense of national responsibility, which contains the practical application of Confucianism. Through the cultivation of the students' thought of "governing the country and stabilizing the world", we can finally achieve the educational goal of "success in learning". The fundamental purpose of teaching is to use. The behavior of saying but not doing has no value. Only by fully following the principle of combining knowledge with practice and striving for the prosperity of the motherland, can teachers cultivate more high-quality talents with a sense of responsibility. Therefore, modern young teachers need to fully realize that teaching is not conservative teaching, not just to impart knowledge, but to teach students how to behave and cultivate their independent personality [9].

In a word, the traditional Confucianism not only contains profound theoretical content, but also contains rich practical teaching experience, which is also the theoretical cost in the history of philosophy education in China. The traditional Confucian teaching thought has created the teaching thought of "teaching without discrimination", which promotes everyone to accept different teaching modes equally, and solves more teaching problems that need to be solved. On the basis of improving and recognizing themselves, it puts forward the teaching purpose of cultivating talents. Moreover, the Confucian teaching thought also attaches great importance to stimulating the human body's content in the potential, virtue and practice. These ideas are very important in the contemporary teaching concept, and provide more reference for the innovation of modern education mode in China.

VII. CONCLUSION

Education in the largest sense is any act or experience that has a formative effect on the mind, character or physical ability of an individual. Culture is root, while education is leaves. In order to truly grasp the educational characteristic of the cultural context and obtain more accurate conclusions, we must proceed from education. Chinese traditional culture is broad and profound. At present, Chinese education still needs Confucianism as the foundation, not only to cultivate talents, but also to find the core of education. The ultimate goal of education

is not just to get a job, to find a good job, but to study in the field they love and make contributions to the country. The cultivation of this spirit needs the help of family, school and even society. Many Confucian thoughts in China deserve our reference. Many of them reflect the essence of education. As the pillars of the motherland in the twenty-first Century, we can extract the essence from the Confucian ideology. We should combine the fine tradition of our ancestors with modern education, promote education reform, and make China's education develop in a better direction.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST

This submitted work was carried out with a conflict of interest.

AUTHOR CONTRIBUTIONS

The author contributed 100 percent. The author created the hypotheses. The author spent the time researching this paper for 1 year. The author developed the research question and ideas.

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