

## Study on countermeasures on moral education through school network\*

WANG Zhi-guo

(Physics Department, Huaiyin Teachers College, Huai'an Jiangsu 223300, China)

**Abstract:** Nowadays, the society witnesses the rapid development of internet information. Network has not only brought active and positive convenience to students, but also the passive and negative impact, so network moral education can not be ignored. The present paper attempts to combine the traditional moral education with online interactivity education, the self-discipline with heteronomy, the ethical theoretical education with cultural edification, and the social education with the family and the school education so as to strengthen moral education through network at school.

**Key words:** network; moral education; countermeasures

Nowadays the society has entered the era of fast developing internet information. The internet has brought to the youth unlimited space with its interactivity and openness, thus becoming an important platform for them to acquire knowledge, exchange ideas, entertain and recreation. According to the latest statistics of Internet Information Center of China, Netizens in China at present have exceeded 94 million in number, of whom the students are the most active group (XIE Hai-guang, 2001). Logging onto the internet is not only a vogue but also a way to study, as the materials on the internet are rich and colorful without national limits, thus the latest information can be obtained in time. However information on the network also varies greatly and the hidden network also tests the moral accomplishment of the Netizens. As far as the school is concerned, how to educate students to consciously resist the erosion of the network virus, build a strong firewall, and cultivate better network moral is a problem that cannot be neglected.

### 1. Present situation of students' network morality

The new way of survival and life style created by the network age are influencing the cognition, emotion, thinking and mentality of students. What's worth mentioning is that once certain way of network life has taken shape among students, due to the characteristic of concentration of student groups, this way will influence one another with the huge power at a huge speed and then disseminate. It can be said that the quality and civilization of the way of network life of student groups in China not only affects the cultural development of campus network in China, but also the future of the society as well as the whole country. The prosperity of the network makes the ideological and political education more onerous and arduous at school.

Like a double-edged sword, the network has huge value of use as well as side-effects which should be paid

---

\* This work was the Professor Fund Project of Huaiyin Teachers College (No. 06HSJS019); Philosophy and Social Science Fund Guidance Project of Jiangsu Education Department (No. 04SJD880009); "The Eleventh Five-Year" Planning Topic of Jiangsu Modern Education Technology (No. 2006-R-2871).

WANG Zhi-guo, professor, Physics Department, Huaiyin Teachers College; research fields: physics education and teaching research of institutions of higher learning.

attention to. Powerful functions of the network enable users to acquire information, make friends, go shopping and be amused, and even fall in love with someone online. Almost all the activities in the virtual society can be realized easily. However, it is easy for the virtuality of the network to get young students to be addicted to the network, thus exerting such bad influences as estrangement of the interpersonal relationship and decreasing the social adaptability. There is also reactionary, superstitious and porn information on the network. It is easy for students to go to extremes if they have no self-control capability. According to the survey, some students leave school as they are too addicted to computer amusement, online chat and online game, and some students infringe the intellectual property right for logging onto the porn or reactionary website, maliciously making virus and plagiarizing others' online results. In addition, the high degree of image of the online information makes many students give up the thinking mode of finding out the nature through thinking, as well as the plane and standard "fastfood culture" created by it will thoroughly do up with the depth and thickness of the traditional culture. Thus the schools should strengthen correct guidance to the young students in moral education to help them get rid of the negative influences of the network and bring the active role of the network into full play.

## **2. Countermeasures on moral education through school network**

The famous American futurologist Arwen Toffler said, "Those who master the information and control the network, have owned the world". The ideological education at school should start from the characteristics of the times, occupying the network. However, to bring into full play the active role of the network, it is necessary reinforce network moral education of students and foster better network morality.

### **2.1 Combine the traditional moral education with the online interactivity education**

In the era characterized by fast development of network, it is an inevitable trend for the ideological and political education at school to use the network. However, we cannot ignore the traditional ways of moral education, such as courses on ideological and moral education, reports on special themes, lectures and other forms of cultural education, which at present still plays a considerable roles. During the network era, what we should do is how to realize a better combination of traditional ways of moral education and those of network moral education, and thus attain good education effects.

The popularity of computer and network enhances the time and frequency of contact of students with the network, and it is an important topic for educators to do well by improving the occasion. To make success the ideological and political education during the network era, the linkage between the online and offline should be paid attention to. Finding the starting point, doing well in the offline, constructing the linkage between online and offline, and building the solid cross network, help students to enhance their self-constraint ability to log onto the internet and the ability to consciously resist the attack of bad information on the internet. Aimed at such features as network addiction and being easy to cause mental problems, take multi measures to probe into the positive educational functions of the network. For example, through active participation of students, invite relevant teachers and experts and scholars to communicate with students through the website chatroom to conduct the online ideological and political education; organize some experts and scholars to participate in the online forum interactivity, and lead the discussion at the forum to be rational with scientific ideas; hold competition of online literature works; software programming competition; webpage making competition and other activities to enable extensive participation of students. Build the virtual online community, organize the Netizens to get together

online, exchange ideas, discuss problems or provide psychological consultancy, etc. While being off line, Netizens can be organized to get together in reality or learn the communication skill, thus by making full use of the network resources, realize the combination of the online and offline education.

Furthermore, traditional ways of moral education are singular, and the sermonic teaching or indoctrinating teaching method has made students feel bored. During the education, advantages of the internet in mutuality and interactivity can be acquired to adopt methods more acceptable to students and obtain better educational effects.

### **2.2 Regulate the network morality and combine online self-discipline with heteronomy**

To strengthen network moral education of teenagers and promote combination of online self-discipline with heteronomy are important means for the schools to provide network moral education. The school has to strengthen network moral education of teenagers to help them form the correct cognition of the network morality and enhance their moral judgment ability, guide them to learn to choose and identify the good from the bad, encourage them to have network moral innovation, enhance their individual cultivation and form the moral self-discipline. Normally, teachers should be good at finding out problems in network moral education, and provide guidance or analyze some practical cases for the students. Meanwhile they can discuss the network culture online or chat with celebrity and so on to make students understand why they should consciously obey network morality in essence, and how they can rationally and legally use the network to promote their learning, enrich their life and form good habits of online self-discipline.

In order to clear network rubbish and provide a desirable space of network life, relevant network laws should be passed to clarify the network discipline and regulate the online behavior of students.

At present, other countries in the world have started network legislation in order to crack down network crimes. Whereas the network legislation in China is still at its initial stage. In February 1996, the *Interim Regulations on Management of Computer Information Network and International Internet* promulgated by the State Council is the earlier law on computer network management, and other main laws include *Methods for Management over Public Computer Internet and International Internet of China*, *Measures for Management over Public Multi-media Information Service of Golden Bridge Information Network in China*, etc. *Interim Regulations on Management over Internet Culture* was passed on March 4, 2003 at the ministerial conference of the Ministry of Culture, and put into force as of July 1, 2003. *Measures for Management Internet IP Address Filing* was also passed on January 28, 2005 at the 12th Ministerial Conference of the Ministry of Information Industry of the People's Republic of China, and put into force as of March 20, 2005. The "Criminal Law" and other relevant legal texts also started setting forth some provisions on cracking down on computer crimes and protecting the information safety. *Decision on Maintaining Internet Safety* passed in December 2000, will investigate the legal responsibilities of some acts that violate the internet operation safety. For example, the deeds such as using the internet to sell inferior products or falsely publicize commodity or service, using the internet to infringe the intellectual property of others, and using the internet to humiliate others or fake facts to defame others will be punished under the *Criminal Law* (WANG Hong-bin, 2003).

Moral educators at school should organize students to conscientiously study and understand contents of relevant network legislation, formulate relevant punishment methods, and carefully study *Convention on Teenagers Network Civilization in China*. In this manner organic combination of online self-discipline and heteronomy of students can be promoted so as to realize better effects of network moral education.

### **2.3 Combine ethical theoretical education with cultural edification**

ZHOU Ji, the Minister of Ministry of Education, once pointed out, “Integrate education with service, provide more information and service to undergraduates with rich contents in a lively manner, organically penetrate the ideological and political education into it to enhance the attraction and affection of ideological and political education” (HOU Bo & BAI Yu-wen, 2004). Traditional moral theoretical education often makes students feel tired, and they may become resistant to the education, thus no good education effects can be attained. Therefore the network moral education should pay attention to the use of the features of the network. For students receiving moral education, it can change this dull theoretical learning into lively cultural edification in a more visual and lively manner through the network.

Moral education at school can place moral education contents online and set basic information area online. The school should put various literature, works and articles in it, just like the library and magazine shelves. The specific contents must be rich and colorful, such as works of *Marx and Lenin*, *Selected Works of Mao Tse-tung* and *DENG Xiao-ping Theory* must appear as the basic contents for teenagers to consult. In the meantime, the school should also enrich the moral education and incorporate cooperation spirit, honesty, morality, scientific and technological morality, individual health and other moral education into the category of moral education. All this should be close to students’ learning and life, and therefore they are helpful to foster their moral judgment ability.

In the course of education, attention should be paid to methods. Through combining education with recreation and holding more colorful network cultural activities, students can receive education from the activity, with notable education effects to be realized. The school should pay attention to the development of the campus network, and enrich the campus network with rich and colorful ideas, culture and information in time, occupying the network space and increasing the readability, knowledge and fun of the website, correctly guiding the online consensus, enabling students to like the campus network and cannot do without the campus network. In browsing the webpage, they are willing to accept advanced ideas of the campus network, thus making the campus network the effective carrier of “Arm people with scientific theory, provide them with correct media guidance, imbue them with lofty ideals, and inspire them with excellent works of literature and art”.

In addition, some network games can be launched with rich humanistic ideas in the campus network, thus edifying students in their game play. The network game “Register of Chinese Heroes” is a case in point. This network game is positioned to adapt the most splendid stories of elites in Chinese history into network games.

In this way, the school should occupy the network game market with these excellent contents and works, recommend to the teenagers, and make them learn and acquire knowledge in playing games (SUN Jian-ming, 2002). As a result, teenagers can acquire knowledge and history in such a lovely manner as game, become cultivated, enhance their spirit of patriotism and form good codes of conduct.

#### **2.4 Combine social education with the family and school education**

To achieve good results, the network moral education at school is indispensable from the concerted efforts of the society, school and family, while the network technology provides convenience to the combination of the above three factors.

The family should play a role of supervision, and provide correct guidance to students on how to deal with the relationship between the online amusement and learning. The school must keep in touch with the family jointly to conduct network moral education. As there is no limit in regions, the network can be used to break through the relation between teachers and students’ parents, such as using the e-home visit to shorten the distance between the school and parents; establish the long-term relationship with students’ parents through making the

head teacher's webpage; and parents can also contact teachers by sending e-mails to learn about the students' living and ideological state quickly and conveniently. Thus the family and school are combined to make the students' moral education successfully.

The society should cooperate with the school in making network moral norms and educate the teenagers to log onto the internet in a regulated manner. Internet bars and other operational premises should be standardized in operation, forbidding the minor to stay long in the network bar. Porn network materials are prohibited to be provided to the teenager students, and the network environment surrounding the school must be rationally governed. Contact the family and the school in time when meeting some problems, and only in realizing the organic combination of family and social power in the moral education at school can the network moral education realize better results and bring into better play the network moral education.

### 3. Conclusion

Today is an information age, with coexistence of chances and challenges. We should take full advantage of the good chance of the network age to guide the students to learn scientific and cultural knowledge. Meanwhile, we should also pay attention to the adverse effect of network, strengthening network moral education and actively seeking countermeasures. Network moral education of school can be strengthened by taking such methods as integrating traditional moral education with network interactive education, integrating network self-discipline with other-discipline, integrating moral theoretical education with cultural edification and integrating moral education from family, society and school.

#### References:

- HOU Bo & BAI Yu-wen. (2004, May). A brief study of problems in teenagers' network moral education. *Journal of China Youth University for Political Sciences*.
- SUN Jian-ming. (2002, April). Educational innovation in the internet era. *Education Exploration*.
- WANG Hong-bin. (2003, November). Mistakes in teenagers' network moral education and the correction strategy. *Education Exploration*.
- XIE Hai-guang. (2001). *The internet and practice in ideological and political work*. Shanghai: Fudan University Press.

(Edited by Jean and Max)