

# Family Education

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## Abstract

Family is the child's first school, the parents are the children's first teacher. Nowadays, in China most families have only one child, the responsibility of parents is not just let the children eat and drink, parents also should bear the task of cultivating children, educating children. About two-thirds of the time spent in the family, family education is earlier than any other form of education, even if the child in the kindergarten, primary school, junior high school and even university, no matter how the living environment changes, family education is the longest and the most important in a person's life.

**Keywords:** family education; fair; interest; teaching; love

## Introduction

### **The current situation of education in China:**

Under the previous one-child policy in China, the child is often the focus of the family unit. As a consequence, most children have been spoiled since childhood. On the other hand, parents pay so much attention to their studies and grades, that they care little about their characters and moral development. This gives rise to many serious problems when these children step into the society.

Ways to improve the current situation of family education

### **Liberation of humanity**

It is reported that a Chinese team visited America in order to investigate its system of primary education. In their report, they described that there was no distinction in morality and ability between second grade students; most of them have not yet learnt to read; but they took music, art, and sports classes seriously as they did in mathematics, physical and chemical sciences; It seemed there was no classroom discipline, and students ignored the authority of their teachers. The investigation concluded that American primary education was bad.

In the same year, an American team also came to China and reported that Chinese students were well disciplined. In classes, their hands were always behind their backs unless the teacher asked questions; they did not speak in class; They were expected

to do homework after school; They were ranked by exam marks. The American team concluded that the grades of Chinese students were the best, and therefore Chinese science culture might surpass America in 20 years.

However, 30 years has passed, the conclusions of these two teams were both wrong. American -style education is being increasingly admired, while Chinese-style education has become an object of public denunciation. This anecdote is a reflection of education in China. In fact, the children are being stifled by the preconceptions of their parents, teachers and society, instead of being free to grow and carve their own path in society. Education is not only about knowledge, but more about the liberation of their individual interests and desires. However, our education sees knowledge and discipline as the top priority, which glosses over the ability to function as an individual in society.

On the contrary, a survey report shows that 80% of children are unable to do their laundry, cook or complete housework successfully. Among those under the age of 18, 17% suffer from emotional disorders and behavioral problems. This is especially evident in interpersonal relationships, emotional stability and adaptive ability problems. Many teenagers find it difficult to deal with adversity and disappointments in life and choose to commit suicide to end up everything. This is the tragedy of an examination-oriented education. If everybody could find their own interest and make a difference in their own field, instead of blindly joining the fierce competition to reach the so-called success, this world will be more peaceful and beautiful.

### **Learn to give than to receive**

In the process of education, it is imperative to let children know the most important rule within the universe is to give with love. Learning to give unselfishly allows one to capture that great feeling by putting others first.

Destiny to human beings is like orbit is to a planet, all of them are enclosed in a circle. Whatever we send out will definitely come back to us without exception. From what has been discussed above, we could draw the conclusion that it is far more important for Chinese students to share an equal higher education resources, to be guided to find their unique interests in life, and to learn to give and make contributions to the society, than to merely focus on getting high marks. Only in this way would the status quo of Chinese education be improved.

### **Get closer to nature.**

Nowadays, people prefer to stay at home to surf the internet or to play computer games, which results in various psychological problems. On one hand, human well-being depends on the benefits that nature provides for free, everyday and everywhere. On the other hand, nature reveals us the principle of our space.

## **Moral behavior education is more important than scientific knowledge.**

On 20 October 2010, Yao Jiaxin, a 21-year-old student from Xi'an, hit a restaurant waitress and stabbed her to death when he saw her taking down his license plate number. Yao was put on trial on 23 March 2011. This case brought much public attention because of Yao's family background and whether the death penalty should be abolished.

Ironically, during the trial, Yao's lawyer pleaded for leniency by saying Yao was a 'model student' with many awards for academic excellence. This led to heated discussions over the Chinese parenting.

Nowadays, parents tend to over-indulge their only child, the so-called 'little emperors' by the media. But in fact, the situation in ancient China was much better. Children benefited a lot from the great tradition of family education, as an education of moral behavior always came first.

The Master said, "A youth should be filial at home, and, respectful to his elders in public. He should be earnest and truthful. He should always be kind to all and cherish good friendship. When time and opportunity permitted, he should consolidate these behaviors in books."

"The doctrine of the mean," said: "Therefore, the gentleman respect for virtue and ask the question, caused by the vast and subtle, very high and moderate, so the new, honest to Chongli." This can be said that the basic principles of traditional Chinese moral education highly generalized. The traditional Chinese moral education "enlightenment", "moral education" is to "move the good life", the goal is realistic, not mysterious; method is to focus on empirical, rather than logical analysis; Inner comprehend to achieve behavior conscious, rather than emphasis on experience by the external experience to achieve ideological understanding.

Therefore, to sum up, the basic characteristics of the traditional Chinese moral education thought is embodied in the following: one is the unity of "moral education" and "cultivating one's morality"; second, "knowing" and "practicing"; thirdly, "the theory that man is an integral part of nature". The traditional morality, which encourages people to pursue noble spiritual realm and yearns for ideal moral personality, still has significant referential value in our socialist moral construction today. Ideal moral personality is a mirror of national morality. With a country of people holding the right moral value, there will be a bright future for the country's development. Hence, China's status quo in education and civilization is calling us to inherit our traditional moral spirit and make the best use of it in our modern social life, to improve people's socialist moral spirit of the realm, and to establish a new ideology with modern ideology and morality Personality.

Necessary manual labor or sports help people keep in good health.

Laozi said, "The Sage rules people by emptying their hearts, filling their bellies, weakening their intelligence and toughening their sinews. In order to make the people ignorant and less unselfishness"

The family atmosphere is an important factor in effective communication with the children. In life, there are many opportunities for joint activities between parents and children. Take the children to outdoors, to enjoy the beauty of nature and the spectacular sight of changing seasons. A good seasonal outing with children is not only a feast for the eyes, but a precious opportunity to build up the parent-child relationship and create unforgettable memories of childhood. Take your children to travel abroad if you have holidays, the horizon-broadening experiences such as monuments, exhibitions, and connections with local people will influence them through their entire life. Be your children's tour guide, even this may request extra working hours for memorizing the city's history or culture, as this would be the best way to win your kid's heart for having a knowledgeable father. Entertain with your child. After dinner or during the holidays, play, sing, and chat with you children, to enjoy the great atmosphere of family gathering. The purpose of joint activities is to eliminate the generation gap; by getting closer to children through various outdoor and indoor activities, parents would find it much easier to educate their children, which is based on trust and relaxing atmosphere.

### **Religious education.**

In ancient China, there was a great diversity of religion beliefs. The main religions were Buddhism, Taoism, Islam, which told people how to be genuine, kind-hearted, beautiful, and the core value of all is Love.

However, Buddhism is very different from other religions. Buddhism is a kind of values, view or outlook of life. And the teachings of Buddhism can make each person turn from learning for fun into finding enlightenment, from the bitter to happiness. This is the eternal values of all sentient beings, especially those we seek.

Regarding the meaning of religion, many people believe it is important to find something to support them, in which way to meet their inner self-satisfaction. Archimedes had this sentence: give me a fulcrum, and I shall move the world. If we do have the faith, it will not only allow us to 'move the world', but also give our whole life a big move.

With this complete support from faith, we will have correct standards and norms to judge what is right from wrong. We know what can be done, what cannot be done. In the words of Buddhism, "all evil do, all good to pursue self-purification of its meaning." As a result of this belief, we will not be local, short-term interests of the temptation, and do not meet the long-term interests, the ultimate value of things. At the same time because of the support of this belief, we need to get to understand that everyone has its special reason to live on this planet, and no one should be destroyed by others. Yet nowadays we are too easily knocked down by a lot of things, such as 'I wish I were

born better than others', 'I may be impressed by family'; 'my academic performance is not as good as others' etc. Once we have a belief, we will be more self-conscious and will think in a positive way.

### **Pay more attention to women's status in family education**

In modern society, in order to advocate the equality of men and women, females start to work more than ever, and so do their husband. In this way, parents have no time to communicate with their children. Not to say to improve themselves personally. However, children usually learn from their parents, especially their mothers, if they are cultivated, their children won't be too bad. While if they don't care about their behaviors, their children will certainly be affected.

To conclude, the issue of family education has become a heated topic during the past years, which has been brought to the forefront by both the Chinese government and the whole world. Emphasis should be paid in aspects such as the establishment of morality and humanity education, the importance of right guidance by parents, who act as their children's first educators. Moreover, it is essential that we learn from what our ancestors left for us in moral education and utilize it in our modern social life.

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