Thoughts on the All-round Development of Individuals in Modern Education

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Abstract. The concept of All-round development of people has an important guiding significance for the development of modern education. Education is a kind of social activity to train people, also a basic path to inherit social culture as well as pass on social production and life experience. It is not only a way to improve the social production, but also the only method to produce well-rounded people. In this paper, the Chinese and western meanings of the All-round development of human beings were summarized, and how to realize the All-round development of human beings through modern education was explored.

Keywords: Modern Education; All-round Development; Education Reform.

1. Introduction

The All-round development of human beings is the fundamental issue of social development, as well as the fundamental purpose and value orientation of education. It is the only way for human beings to understand nature and society and constantly improve and develop themselves to establish the People-oriented education concept and achieve their own harmonious development through learning and education. In today’s increasingly professional education, university education must innovate educational ideas and strengthen general education, so as to realize the transformation of human beings and their own reconstruction, cultivate sound personality and quality, and promote the comprehensive and harmonious development of human beings.

2. Meaning of All-round Development of Human Beings

The thought about the All-round development of human beings has rich historical sources. Philosophers, ideologists and educators of different times have explored its true meaning from different perspectives and made numerous different definitions and explanations.

In ancient China, the “six skills education” advocated by Confucius was an education concept to promote the All-round development of people. In the Shang Dynasty, the requirements of the “six skills” of ritual, music, archery, charioteering, calligraphy and mathematics were the initial form of China’s All-round development of education. In the tradition of ancient Greece, the ideal perfect man was the one who got healthy development both physically and mentally under the control of rationality. Pythagoras, who first proposed the concept of “harmony” in the West, believed that everything in the world was harmonious, which was “embodied in the universe, music, human mind, and harmonious social relations”. Therefore, mathematics, music, geometry, astronomy, physical education, and virtues that embody harmony were emphasized. In the Republic, Plato mentioned physical education, intellectual education, moral education and ideology, holding that under the guidance of rationality, people's mind and body should be developed in an All-round way to achieve beauty, wisdom, benevolence and courage.

The All-round development of human beings refers to the fullest, most free and most comprehensive exploration and mobilization of individual potential. What it stresses is the degree of individuation of human beings, “that is, the All-round development of human beings as subjects in all aspects, including All-round, full and free development of material and spiritual life, All-round development of physical and psychological quality, All-round development of personality, intelligence, physical strength and creativity, and so on.” Only when each individual’s personality is fully, freely and comprehensively developed, can there be diverse and colorful personalities of the whole society, and the All-round development and progress of the society can be realized.
In terms of content, the All-round development of human beings consists of three aspects, involving the free development of human beings, the All-round development of human beings and the full development of human beings, which are described as follows.

The free development of human beings refers to the autonomy of development. It mainly refers to the conscious, voluntary and independent development of people, enabling members of the society to be liberated from certain restraints and put in a state of independent and conscious development, so that they can actively build their own consciousness and determine and develop their talents in various aspects according to their own willingness, interest and hobbies.

The free development of human beings is the fundamental connotation, comprehensive embodiment and highest goal of the All-round development of people. The full development of human beings refers to the degree of development, meaning that people get rid of and liberate from all kinds of internal and external forces of the shackles and shackles, so that their various needs, abilities and relations can be enriched and developed greatly. It emphasizes that the essence of human potential can be fully explored and become its own master.

The All-round development of human beings refers to the universality of development, including equal development, complete development and harmonious development. Equal development of human beings means that everyone deserves equal development and has equal opportunities and rights for development. The complete development of human beings refers to the development of human personality, needs, will, interests, confidence, activities, abilities, social relations and so on. The core is the All-round development of human ability.

3. How to Realize the All-round Development of Human Beings through Modern Education

Modern education theory claims that human is the center and the goal of education; human is the starting point as well as the destination of education; human is the foundation but also the root of education. Therefore, to promote the All-round development of human beings, the modern perspective should be considered from the education concept, education content, education method and education system.

3.1 Setting up People-oriented Education Concept

The theory of All-round development of human beings is of great guiding significance to the modern education reform, which is the theoretical basis and the end result of the modern education reform and development. It requires the modern education in the reform to set up the People-oriented education concept, pay attention to the comprehensive education of students, respect their personality, fully tap their potential, meet their needs, create a loose and harmonious teaching atmosphere, as well as build lifelong education system, to facilitate the comprehensive and harmonious development of students.

The People-oriented education concept is both the urgent need of the development of the times and social progress, as well as the inevitable requirement of the All-round development of human beings. The People-oriented education concept means that in educational activities, the value of human beings should be fully affirmed and their subjective status should be established. Such an education concept requires educators to show humanistic care to students in the purpose and means of education.

3.2 Highlighting Comprehensive Learning in Terms of Education Content

The goal of modern education is to train people with advanced thinking, first-class professional skills, a good aesthetic attitude and healthy psychology. Hence, it is natural to take moral, intellectual, physical, aesthetic and labor education as the content, to shape individuals into modern people with noble morality, rich knowledge and innovative ability. However, having been affected by the existing professional colleges, separation of arts and science, too narrow specialty setting and single specialty
education thought for a long time, China’s higher education emphasize natural science education, while ignoring the humanistic education of students, resulting in a series of problems threatening our own survival and social development.

Practice has proved that too fine division of specialties can easily lead to excessive division of knowledge, so that the differences in learning contents among students of different departments are too obvious, and they are difficult to break through their own professional circles, unable to recognize the connection between knowledge, and lack of knowledge foundation and ability to think and deal with problems from a relatively broad perspective; on the other hand, from the perspective of human development, only training students to engage in a narrow professional work is easy to ignore the needs of students as a complete person’s All-round development, so that trained professionals become one-way people. Bacon has a maxim as: “Histories make men wise; poets witty; natural philosophy deep; moral grave; logic and rhetoric able to contend.” In consequence, humanities quality and science and technology quality education are the basic components of the All-round quality education of university students, and the two are closely combined. Accordingly, education should change the practice of confining students to narrow professional fields and cultivate students with a more open attitude so that they can adapt to the needs of future social development.

3.3 Emphasizing Comprehensive Education of Students in Terms of Education Methods

Although modern education has provided mankind with the most systematic and advanced educational facilities in history and made the educational cause achieve unprecedented tremendous development, it is still in the process of transformation from traditional education to modern education, and there remains many defects. For a long time, our education has paid too much attention to the inculcation of students’ knowledge while ignoring the cultivation of their ability, too much to the pursuit of unity while ignoring the difference of personality, too much to the leading role of educators while ignoring the initiative and creativity of the education object, too much to the external reinforcement of learning while ignoring the cultivation and guidance of learning interest, too much to individual learning stages while ignoring the lifelong nature of learning and so on. All these inevitably affect the All-round development of students physically and mentally. Therefore, it should be the value pursuit of modern education to overcome the disadvantages of traditional education, focus on students’ comprehensive education, respect their personality, fully tap their potential, and create a loose and harmonious teaching atmosphere to promote their comprehensive and harmonious development.

3.4 Building a Lifelong Education System in Terms of Education System

Lifelong education system, as a social establishment of the system and organization of a learning society, bears the important task of carrying out the concept of lifelong education and the purpose of a learning society, and is the necessary foundation of building a learning society. Learning society is the one taking learning as the core, the whole people as the main body, the lifelong education system as the cornerstone, the learning organization as the foundation, the operation mechanism as the guarantee, to learn to work and work to learn as the sign, and promoting the All-round development of people as the purpose. In the learning society, learning will run through all aspects of society and individual’s life, becoming a necessity for every citizen and social development. In this society, the traditional and old education concepts as well as the corresponding teaching methods and learning methods will be broken, and everyone will get balanced development and equal educational opportunities. It not only focuses on solving people’s current survival and development problems, but also meets people’s sustainable development needs through lifelong learning. Therefore, the learning society provides unprecedented conditions and opportunities for promoting the All-round development of people which will then enjoy a broader, full and free space.
4. Conclusion

The All-round, free and full development of human beings is the highest goal of human development and the social ideal that human beings pursue unremittingly. Through the research, the author held that in realizing the goal of All-round development of human beings, the modern perspective should be considered multidimensionally from the education concept, education content, education method and education system to underscore the All-round education of people, to promote the All-round development of human beings.

References