Study on the Fostering of Splendid Family Culture from the Perspective of Socialist Core Values

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Abstract. The socialist core values are the latest achievement of sinicization of Marxism and the inheritance and development of Chinese excellent traditional culture. The affinity, closeness and tolerance among family members can be conducive to the identification and practice of the socialist core values, the obligatory duty of every family. This article explores the fostering of splendid family culture from the perspective of socialist core values. The socialist core values should guide the fostering of splendid family culture and should also be promoted by it, with the interaction between them and the innovative transformation, so that millions of families across the country will gather up a strong spiritual force for the “Chinese Dream”.

Introduction

Family is the first school an individual attends, a cell of the social organism, and the most fundamental and special organization of social life. And family culture is the core of any family, the substances for children’s growth, and the source of a nation’s disposition. Just as Jin-ping Xi, General Secretary of the CPC Central Committee, has emphasized, the Chinese people has attached great importance to family and kinship. Therefore, no matter how dramatically the times and life patterns have changed, Chinese people should always value family bonding, including family members, family tradition and family culture, and, closely combined with the cultivation and promotion of Socialist core values, spread and flourish the traditional family virtues of the Chinese people, in order to make the hundreds of millions families important base points for national development, people’s progress, and social harmony. All families should build lofty ideals, raise civility, pass on traditional virtues, take on noble missions, safeguard the family frontier for the construction of socialist core values, and strive to be role models in practicing socialist core values. Only if socialist core values are widely identified and faithfully practiced, will the whole society build sound and civil virtues for the citizens, and achieve the goals of enhancing the construction of citizens’ virtues, improving their civility and promoting national spiritual civilization through the implementation of socialist core values. It is imperative to use socialist core values to guide the fostering of splendid family culture, push forward the innovative transformation and development of traditional family culture, and to advocate socialist core values when fostering splendid family culture so that it can help cultivate splendid civil culture, which may consequently help forge splendid social culture.

I. Practicing Socialist Core Values Is the Obligation of Every Family

Along with the social production, human beings have been reproducing to sustain bloodline and their own races. Family thus emerged and developed out of the unbreakable kinship and family bond, connecting family members together through marriage and blood, constituting the basic unit
of social life, and representing the totality of interpersonal relationships in the society. Family’s function and its influence can be profound for children’s growth and development, because they gradually receive the moral education infiltrated through everyday life in this enlightening “school”. The outstanding social traits of family life make it the most fundamental cultural unit of the society as well as the cornerstone of constructing socialist spiritual civilization.

Socialist core values rest primarily on identification and practicing. As the most immediate environment where citizens’ morality forms as well as the most important cornerstone of the progress of social civilization, family should pioneer and advocate the active identification and loyal practitioner of socialist core values. For socialist core values to play a crucial role in guiding social ideology and driving social development, the key is the identification of it by all social members. Therefore, family identification is especially crucial for the promotion and practice of socialist core values. Aspects of socialist core values to be identified are: Firstly, integrated identification with socialism of Chinese characteristics to establish solid confidence in its cause, theories and mechanism. Secondly, integrated identification with the great rejuvenation of the Chinese nation to clarify the goal of realizing the “Two Centenary Goals” and the Chinese Dream of great rejuvenation of the Chinese nation. Thirdly, integrated identification with patriotism and collectivism to promote thoughts and spirits of patriotism, collectivism and socialism. Fourthly, integrated identification with the maintaining the overall situation of reform, development and stability to correctly understand their relationship as well as that of efficiency and fairness, thus establishing positive, elated social mentality and favorable media atmosphere. Fifthly, integrated identification with earning a happy life through honest efforts to establish the notion of industriousness, making earning a happy life through honest efforts the leading social value and guiding people to work happily, honestly and industriously with favorable social ideology.

II. Using Socialist Core Values to Guide the Construction of Splendid Family Culture

Currently, China is going through an important phase of social transition with achievements of socialist great cause attracting world’s attention. Social transition has driven the social development and improved people’s living conditions on the one hand, and brought a variety of conflicts and problems on the other hand, such as the reoccurrence of demoralized phenomena, attracting people’s thoughts and attention. Recently, for example, diversified social ideology has been more and more evident, and people are worried about deteriorating social virtues and moral decay and the like. Moral crisis has brought about crises of trust, belief and responsibility, severely jeopardizing the healthy development of socialist market economy as well as social harmony and stability. Money-worshiping and hedonism have sprung up among some social members, coupled with demoralized behaviors such as loss of conscience for personal gains and lack of credibility. Besides, family-related crimes are increasing such as gambling or gang activities involving the whole family, domestic violence, and household-based fake goods production and distribution; some are flaunting their wealth while other are hostilely jealous; part of the Party’s cadres became corrupted and committed crime in pursuit of extravagant lifestyle, severely contaminating the health and positive social atmosphere; a portion of the second generation of official, affluent and celebrity families were exposed to have recklessly defied public order and values, having negative impacts on the society; several TV media even aired programs with no cultural elements at all, appealing to the audience with absurd ideas and demoralized “new concepts”. All those phenomena have seriously derailed from socialist core values.

General Secretary Xi has demanded that socialist core values “be earnestly implemented in all aspects of social life”. Family culture fostering is an important means and micro-carrier of cultivation and practicing of socialist core values, whose concepts on the three layers of national development objective, social order and individual code of conduct function as guidelines and requirements of the former. In this new era, China should use socialist core values to guide the fostering of family culture so that it may reflect the requirements of the socialist times and the connotation of spiritual civilization, balance the co-existing and mutual-beneficial relationships between community, workplace and company cultures, reconcile the relationship between interests
of family, community and nation, achieve the dual goals of cultivating responsible family members and sensible citizens to always maintain the correct political stance and advanced culture.

As a necessary path to socialist moral construction, fostering of splendid family culture dictates that it be combined with basic requirements of individual merit, family virtue, professional ethic and social morals and gradually integrate and transform them to be an essential part of family culture. Cultivating individual merit is the foundation of fostering family culture in that the basis for favorable family culture to be passed on and observed is that people abide by the moral codes consciously. It is advisable to integrate into family culture the ability to differentiate right form wrong, and honor from disgrace, the pursuit of benevolence, the faith in kindness and justice, and the awareness to obey moral codes, and to promote friendly mutual assistance, integrity and tolerance, gentleness and trustworthiness, affection and honesty, as well as independence and self-reliance. Family virtue's positive radiation function on the society can help elevate public morals, making it necessary to combine the household rules emphasizing filial piety, gratefulness and responsibility with fostering of family culture to promote the values of respects the seniors and caring for the juniors, gender equality, harmonious marriage, thrifty life style, as well as integrated neighborhood. Work ethic is an essential part of family culture, as is demonstrated in Chinese classical literature such as "A wise man is primarily occupied with laying the foundation, from which all trades of his life may be built", and people can "earn a living with merit" and "rule the country with integrity". So it is imperative for people to integrate into their family culture the love for what they are doing, the compliance with regulations and sense of responsibility to promote concepts of honesty and trustworthiness, career loyalty, helpfulness and service to the society. Additionally, integrating social morals into family culture means to advocate the principle of “Do not fail to do good even if it's small; do not engage in evil even if it's small”, to promote civility and courtesy, helpfulness, care for public possessions, environmental protection as well as abiding be the law.

III. Promoting Social Core Values in Fostering Splendid Family Culture

Tracing the developments of traditional culture and virtues, we can observe the active role family has played in the inheritance of social morals and culture. To foster splendid family culture, an important means and channel to inherit morals and culture, it’s imperative to harbor love for the Party, country and people, to epitomize the essences of outstanding traditional Chinese culture such as filial piety, sibling affection, loyalty, trustworthiness, courtesy, nobleness, resistance to corruption and integrity; take advantage of the family' function in passing on positive energy to encourage family members to actively take on job responsibilities and social obligations, handle various social relationships well, and promote socialist core values with an all-out effort; integrate outstanding traditional Chinese culture into fostering of family culture, making family an important frontier of cultivating and practicing socialist core values.

Mr. Xiao-tong Fei, China's renowned sociologist, once proposed the ideal for every nation to "cherish the beauty of its own culture, and learn to appreciate others' in order to create a world where diverse cultures may co-exist and be equally respected", which is also the principle to be followed when fostering splendid family culture. Family cultures should be fully respected for their differences and diversity so that they may both display family uniqueness and meet the demands of social progress. One way to achieve this is to foster special and diverse family cultures based on traditional common moral concepts such as patriotism, industriousness, valiance, and kindness in accordance with specific family circumstances; the other is to use the citizen organizations to connect and bind the community, having residential commissions in villages and communities, Women’s Federations, and Youth Leagues host activities to enhance communication among people from different family backgrounds, exchange family cultures, and accumulate and condense the mighty trend of consensus on socialist core values on the grass-root level.

It's imperative to foster splendid family culture in daily household life to continuously perfect social contracts among citizens and villagers as well as family rules to guide people to consciously follow the basic requirements of family culture in daily lives and continuously strengthen
understanding of and identification with socialist core values. Education of children is of fundamental necessity to help them hold filial piety, thrifty, friendliness and ambition as basic life habits and spiritual doctrines. In terms of relationship with relatives, be respectful, helpful, tolerant and communicative, to make relative interactions an important platform to foster splendid family culture; in terms of family events and on important socializing occasions such as furthering study and job-hunting, being awarded for contributions and merits, career promotions, purchasing or building new houses, starting up businesses, birthday celebrations, birth of children, receiving medical treatments and family tours, education on family virtues should be conducted in a clear, vivid and effective way, especially education on filial piety, friendliness, integrity, industriousness and thrifty, to cultivate and pass on outstanding family virtues, driving the harmonious development of family and society.

Summary
China is increasingly emphasizing the publicity and education of socialist core values, and the key to value education is the integration of concept with reality, words with actions, and thoughts with words. As the spiritual pillar and life guidance, socialist core values need the help of family to go on to gain wide social identification. One way is to guide the fostering of splendid family culture with socialist core values to help their inherent demands be represented and passed on in families; the other is to promote socialist core values during the process of fostering splendid family culture, using family as a frontier, beginning with the fostering of family culture, thus illustrating the core values in a more specific, elaborate and vivid way to step up the whole society’s identification with socialist core values. In this way, the mighty trend of hundreds of millions of families striving to contribute to the “Chinese Dream” can be accumulated and condensed to motivate people to march in strides towards the prospective future of realizing the great rejuvenation of the Chinese nation.

References