On the Virtue Cultivation of Chinese Teacher Volunteers in Thailand
—Based on the International Chinese Teachers' Standards

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Abstract. The revival of virtue ethics, as well as the rising of Chinese teacher volunteers in the late twentieth Century, opened a new era in philosophical and educational circles. Increasing prominence of contemporary moral crisis has become a strong call for the revival of virtue; the development of reform and opening has provided a favorable opportunity for Chinese to go abroad. Chinese teacher volunteer, as a new career orientation, is necessary for us to carry out a full range of research, in which the moral cultivation of volunteers is an indispensable content of inquiry.

1. An Overview of Thailand Chinese Teacher Volunteers' Morality

1.1 The concept and connotation of virtue

The connotation of virtue has been enduring in human history, no matter how influential it is, "Gentlemen honor virtue and follow the path of inquiry." The Book of Rites on Mean. Cheng Yi, one of scholars in Song and Ming dynasties, respects "knowledge of virtue" and believes virtue is inherent in life. Confucius put forward the system of virtue ethics, in which benevolence is the core, respect, generosity, integrity, sagacity and grace are moral concepts, holy virtue, benevolent virtue, mortal virtue are virtue levers.[1] Virtue's revival has aroused concern in Chinese philosophy and education. Amid On Virtue, Jiang Chang stipulated the meaning of virtue, "Virtue is the basic requirement in the use of reason or intelligence for better survival. Virtue is intentionally cultivated for better survival; it has influence on human activities, also turn activities and subject into good quality, that is, moral quality. It has main characteristics such as directionality, intentionality, unity and stability."[2] The first mention of virtue assertion in modern western philosophy, rooted in British philosopher Anscombe's Modern Moral Philosophy in 1958, in which contains sharp criticism for "deontology" and "teleology". In Nico Marco, Aristotle elaborated, "virtue is the quality of being kind and achieving excellence."[3] Among After Virtue, Macintyre mentioned: "Virtue is a kind of acquired qualities, the possession and practice of it, enable us to obtain intrinsic interest of practice."[4] Virtue and practice are inseparable. Protek said: "If education is not deep into the depths of soul, it cannot root and grow in soul. Cultivation of virtue is indeed the cultivation of soul. [5] The east and west philosopher's attention to virtue is far beyond our imagination. Virtue, as an excellent quality and an internal drive, pays much attention to the development of human beings, and it is an important manifestation of the essential force in human nature.

1.2 Virtue of Chinese teacher volunteers in Thailand

"Capacity, virtue's source, virtue, capacity's captain." History is a Mirror. Volunteers are not only educators, but also the representative of a country. As the powerful practitioner of Chinese culture, volunteers exudes cultural flavor. So its connotation is the foundation of virtue study. Volunteers' virtue contains different levels of content. First, virtue regulates their behavior with their unique cognition to the world and themselves. Secondly, based on category of teacher's ethics, it contains professional particularity; it can develop continuously during educational practice and emanate teachers' concern. Finally, virtue is constantly internalized in unfamiliar environment surrounded by patriotic enthusiasm; it is a kind of social role chased by volunteers consciously; it is an ideal life attitude and a life style, like stars of night and sun of day. Virtue is embodied in every
aspect of human beings; it can be divided into spiritual virtue and physical virtue. A volunteer who has virtue will certainly pay attention to his health. Volunteers’ quality is a part of teacher's spiritual virtues. There are ten international standards written by leading office for International promotion of Hanban: Chinese knowledge; skills of foreign language; Chinese culture; cross-cultural communication; second language's acquisition; teaching method; evaluation; teaching curriculum, syllabus, auxiliary materials; modern educational technology and application; comprehensive quality.[6] Volunteers need to follow these standards. None is perfect, the cultivation can drive volunteers to pursue all-round development and move closer to standards. Only with two aspects of mind and body is true meaning of virtue cultivation.

1.3 The necessity of moral cultivation of Chinese teachers volunteers in Thailand

With the acceleration of globalization, a dramatically increasing number of individuals are interested in learning Chinese. It seems that Chinese will become the world's most popular language. As a special Chinese card, volunteers should carry out good educational events and feel happiness at the same time, which is inseparable from the cultivation of virtue. Only by arousing the desire of human beings to pursue virtue, can individual acquire the virtue itself. When culture collision erupt from curiosity, friction and amalgamation, nevertheless, the external regulations hardly limit the human soul, the absence of professional ethics occurs frequently, attributed to the deficiency of virtue. The rising moral crises in modern society threaten the whole world. Whether neglect of virtue or breakthrough of moral line, should not become the mainstream of this era. Any kind of quality services the subject; the mental amusement is an important basis for guiding the correct action. Volunteers are not saints without desire, certainly, they are not required to sacrifice self-achievement, the cultivation is to make this group finish their jobs in full enjoyment, pay attention to their own health, explore their potential, develop their hobbies, release pain in life, get self-perfection in practice. Let the world see a truly volunteer with virtue. A teacher with virtue can truly love life and work hard, he will obtain extrinsic rewards, like money or connections. The most important thing for teachers is to be loved by foreign students and to get excellent teaching results. Virtue brings the fully merits, why not go ahead with it?

2. The Basic Situation and Existing Problems within Moral Cultivation of Volunteers in Thailand

2.1 The basic situation

The project, Chinese teacher volunteer, is approved by Chinese Ministry of Education and carried out by Hanban since March 26, 2004. For more than ten years; volunteers who have been sent out have indeed made great contributions to the popularization of Chinese. The number of volunteers constantly tops the list. According to the data of Hanban, the total number of volunteers is more than 5700 in 2015, including over 1800 volunteers who have taught in Thailand, accounting for nearly 1/3 of total number. The social progress accelerates the modernization process. The understanding of the world reaches unprecedented heights, as well as multiple values' impact. Moral practice is absent in daily life. For most of volunteers in Thailand, morality is still the root of life. But the cultivation of virtue, the key of morality, seems rather rare. Lack of virtue is still main reason for lack of morality. Although most volunteers have solid basic skills, because of limited teaching experience, mobility, the impact of multiculturalism and the lack of adaptation, it is difficult for them to carry out the ideal work. The majority of volunteers are fresh graduates, flexibility term of volunteers lead increased mobility. Students are confused about constant repetition, and teachers keep muddling along, which lead to stagnant teaching level. Volunteers are bustling about complex arrangement, lack of significant work make them unable to consider cultivation, therefore teaching quality also cannot be improved. In life, volunteers enter a new environment; whether volunteers can really put into teaching also vary from person to person. Because of culture shock, process generally includes honeymoon phase, crisis period, recovery period and adaptation period. Teaching is greatly affects by regular abandonment in crisis period. During this period, volunteers are prone to self-doubt and unable to complete work, especially self-virtue cultivation. It is necessary to explore the methods for coping with the pessimistic situation.
2.2 The existing problems

Firstly, take virtue as invisibility—value nihilism and hedonism are in a flood of thought. Volunteers get in touch with many Thais who were nurtured by Buddhist culture. Multi culture has impact on Chinese traditional culture. They regarded job as a great opportunity to travel instead of teaching. They forget their first task—transmitting knowledge. Volunteers are not only educators, but also transmitters of Chinese culture. Because of the emergence of volunteers, more citizens have a better understanding of Chinese culture, thus producing friendly feelings towards China. Secondly, moral consciousness is not strong—the deviation of professional orientation. There are high requirements of professional accomplishment, no less than the requirements of domestic Chinese teacher. Certainly, students have their own characteristics. Teachers should find a relaxed method suitable for Thailand students. The development of virtue provides an important support for development of professional quality. Teachers with good character will combine professionalism and specialization perfectly to achieve further development, which is often ignored by volunteers. They regard professionalism as a training target and ignore the accumulation, like rootless wood, it is impossible to become a professional and specialized volunteer in the lack of virtue cultivation. Finally, deviation in the understanding of virtue—obscure between virtue and morality. Virtue and morality are relatively concepts; they cannot be defined freely without distinction. "Especially when discussing the virtue of volunteers. Teachers' virtue is not a basic profession standard; it is a higher requirement on the basis of moral standard."[7] Too much emphasis on morality will inevitably cause moral kidnapping. Morality is an external manifestation, and virtue is rooted in soul. A fledgling volunteer has its own comprehension; nevertheless, their understanding is too shallow to urge continuous improvement. To become an outstanding volunteer, not only should we actively promote self-virtue, but also proceed from reality, and take every little step in life and work.

3. Some Thoughts on Strengthening the Cultivation of Volunteers in Thailand

3.1 The proposing and exploration of objective aspects

Strengthen standardization of national system. The existence of system based on compulsory regulations and social conventions. The existence of system is like a fixed abrasive, it helps people to find a standardized way of behavior. [8] For virtue cultivation of volunteers, the state should enhance recognition. For example, set up scientific and reasonable curriculum, in the selection of volunteers, not only to assess basic knowledge and cross-cultural competence, but also to conduct a survey on moral character, whether they have enough space for virtue cultivation or willing to devote them to teaching. In this particular era of people-oriented, full force must take second place to humanization. How to standardize virtue cultivation is still a long way to go. Improve social concern energetically. Society should reasonably identify volunteers. Volunteer is a great and ordinary undertaking, the way to understand it is regarding them as teachers who shoulder responsibility of spreading Chinese culture. Compared to traditional teacher, volunteers are more likely to preach "Chinese way". Let the world understand the Chinese culture and promote peace development, this is the meaning of the existence of volunteers. [9] Working abroad cannot be the main reason for marginalization. Rational view about this occupation is the motivation for volunteers to create the future. After all, people always want to be cared for, even a silent look. Create a good atmosphere of virtue. "Like a duck to water", the same with relationship between teachers and schools. Schools should actively create a good atmosphere for virtue cultivation. There are also a variety of complex relationships in abroad schools. The relationship between teachers and students is a major factor related to happiness, teachers get achievability from students, and students get encouragement from teachers. What is the best way to stimulate virtue? Kindness is the pursuit of virtue, and the sincere meeting is the catalyst to cultivate the atmosphere of virtue. Schools with good spirit must go further.

3.2 The propose and exploration of subjective aspects

Promote self-professional identity. Self-identification is responsible for your own performance; it is a prerequisite for job. Virtue cultivation is a process of self-perfection. Things that people
experience in life are beyond count, occupation is important. Regard virtue cultivation as the highest goal of career. Take it as a kind of pursuit with determination and do self-discipline in life and work, bear responsibility as a volunteer, accumulate theoretical knowledge, prepare lessons and teach Chinese well. Let virtue play the biggest role and achieve its maximum value by identity of occupation. Learn from previous experience. The thought of virtue' revival keep rising in today's world. [10] Virtue is written by masters both in the past and at present time around the world. Reading leads them to wander in the ocean of virtue, perhaps a certain moment is filled with wisdom. Utilitarianism and hedonism cause human nature to lose its identity, Reading provides knowledge, moreover, it can eliminate impetuous and get self-cultivation, which is undoubtedly a good catalyst for cultivation, so that emotional sustenance and spiritual home can be found by volunteers. Get self-perfection in practice. Volunteers have unique advantages. They get in touch with different culture and belief, and open the gate for virtue cultivation. Theory can be transformed into practice in teaching period; volunteers can improve their teaching skills and their own cultivation. Introspection is a kind of virtue, a person who is good at introspection is often the winner in life, and he constantly reflects himself in practice and polishes virtue in his reflection. "You will understand the gain and loss if you take people as mirror", volunteers cannot be separated with people in life and work, and especially people with different cultural background and this is bound to color the cultivation of virtue.

4. Conclusion

It is very important to explore virtue cultivation of volunteers in Thailand, because teachers is not only "three instructions" (teachers, materials and methods), but also the organizer of class. [11] The effectiveness of teaching depends largely on the teachers, virtue influences teachers' character. It is necessary for us to do a full range of research on teachers. The key to cultivation is teachers' pursuit. Pay attention to morality, then internalize it as own virtue. Meanwhile, the influence of external factors must be overcome; only storing enough nutrients can volunteers form their unique virtue. There is no harm both in public and privacy. Without blindly footsteps and frightened panic in life and work, the pace of volunteers will be more firmly in the way to spread Chinese culture.

5. References


