On Cultivation of Contemporary College Students’ Responsibility Consciousness

Sen LIN
School of Information Science and Engineering, Wuhan University of Science and Technology
32364541@qq.com

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Abstract. The responsibility consciousness of contemporary college students mainly encompasses such responsibility towards themselves, families, countries and societies, as well as all humanity. As a whole, the values advocated by our society are accepted by an overwhelming majority of students, who care about the development of the country, society and themselves, making it clear that what responsibility they should take. However, there exists a lack of responsibility consciousness in the campus, and the reasons are various accounting for this phenomenon. Therefore, we should give prominence to the trinity of family, university and society on education in order to cultivate the responsibility consciousness of contemporary college students.

What Is Responsibility?

With the emergence of human society, responsibility appears as a kind of existence and it changes constantly with the development of the society and times. Therefore, responsibility is defined as the duty and obligation that social beings taking their part of the society should assume and fulfill under specific historical conditions. And this consciousness of responsibility refers to the conscious awareness of this assumed duty and fulfilled obligation.

In ancient and modern times, there are a lot of descriptions about responsibility. For instance, Confucius said about responsibility like this, “If you are strict with yourself and require little from others, you will avert resentment”. He would like to warn people to be brave enough to assume the responsibility, undertake self-criticism and show tolerance to others as much as possible. “Everyone is responsible for his country.” This is Gu Yanwu’s theory about responsibility from Qing dynasty. It means that every citizen should be responsible for the nation’s life and death. Most of contemporary scholars have made definitions about responsibility which is comprised of 3 aspects. Firstly, students are required to consciously comply with the social laws and moral rules. Secondly, students should pay more attention to social development and people’s livelihood. Furthermore, they should try their best to care for and help other people. Thirdly, students should associate their individual development with the social development, and try to arm themselves with the spirit of sacrifice to serving society and country.

The Embodiment of College Students’ Responsibility Consciousness

The responsibility consciousness of contemporary college students is mainly reflected in the following four interrelated aspects:

What comes first is the consciousness of being responsible for yourself. Being responsible for yourself lays a foundation for the responsibility towards others and society. Only when individuals are equipped with consciousness of responsibility, are they likely to raise their responsibility consciousness of others, society even the country. As a result, contemporary college students take initiatives to cherish their own life and health, as well as concerning about their future development. Additionally, they are supposed to enrich and improve the scientific lore and ideological and moral standards. All these can maximize individual potential and help to get comprehensive and integrated development.
Next is the consciousness of being responsible for your family. As a member of the family, students have been enjoying the consideration and sincere love from their parents and the elders for a long time. Hence, they should make full awareness of the efforts made by their parents and relatives in the process of their growth. Besides, they should realize all the expectations from their parents and the elders to take on responsibility and obligation to their parents and relatives.

The consciousness of being responsible for the country and society is the third aspect. Human beings are cells of constituting social organism. Therefore, all the members should raise the awareness of being responsible for the country and society and perform duties endowed by the country and society. Under such condition, it’s of great significance to facilitate compatible development of social organism and satisfy private benefits at the same time. As contemporary college students in the group of advanced talents in society, they should set good examples of abiding by social morality and various laws and regulations. Also, they should get informed of national conditions, maintain national integration, make correct aware of fundamental laws of social development, and keep firm communist ideal. In accordance with the goal of social development, our life goals should serve people and society.

The fourth aspect is the consciousness of being responsible for all humanity. With the high development of science and technology, relations all around the world become closer, and there is little chance for any countries to exist with isolation. So students should advocate global and international concept, and think over problems from the angle of social development. Apart from these, they should concentrate on current environment, population and energy, trying to study hard and practice to solve these problems. Meanwhile, they should perform heavy duties for long-term development and offspring.

The Significance of College Students’ Responsibility Consciousness

With the study of several years, college students will achieve the goals of being an adult and a useful person. Being a useful person indicates that college students enhance their abilities by studying in the university and learn to deal with problems so as to be a useful person making great dedication to society. Being an adult demonstrate that college students will form favorable qualifications and learn to be an upright person, a kind-hearted person who are able to live in harmony with others. The cultivation of college students’ responsibility consciousness marks the beginning of forming favorable qualifications. Firstly, college students should become such kind of person to perform duty and fulfill obligation, and then they can become high-quality people beneficial to their own family, community, country, society and other people around them. On the premise of being an upright person, students should learn to assume responsibility. As the heroic deeds of excellent colleges students Hong Zhanhui and Liu Fangyan tell us in latest years, strong responsibility consciousness is the most important quality of college students. A college student without responsibility consciousness is regarded as a low-quality and low-personality person.

The responsibility consciousness of college students is also the strong impetus of being a useful person. College students are the best of the same age, they will become experts in all walks of life by studying in the campus. Nonetheless, they will encounter a variety of difficulties during the process of their study. The life cannot proceed smoothly with many obstacles on the way to success. Consequently, college students need strong motivation during the study, exactly; this kind of responsibility consciousness makes for such strong motivation to inspire college students to study hard being a useful person soon or later. Looking back to histories, it is the responsibility consciousness of learning for the rising of China that premier Zhou Enlai makes for his own special political abilities and great achievements of the independence and prosperity of Chinese nation. Under the inspiration of this sense of national responsibility called “I would shed my blood to express my ardent love to my nation,” Lu Xun formed his own outstanding literature ability and become the Chinese literature banner-man in the 1930s. Therefore, strong responsibility
consciousness is the motivation of inspiring college students to work hard and enhance abilities even better performed heavy duties.

The cultivation of college students’ responsibility consciousness makes difference to their individual promotion and lay good foundation for their development after graduation. After they leave school and enter into society, they have to take on responsibility towards career, study and life as much as possible. The university educators should lay emphasis on the cultivation of students’ responsibility consciousness to make students shoulder their duties after graduation. If a college student is weak in the understanding of this consciousness, he will take lots of his undertaken duties lightly, even evade those responsibilities. In the end, he can’t make achievements in his job, meet the needs of society either. According to the report made by a company, the responsibility consciousness ranks the top of the listed qualities of more than twenty graduates. Following behind closely is the ability of professional dedication and team unity. As a result, the cultivation of college students’ responsibility consciousness plays a sharply important role in the lifelong development of college students.

Problems and Causes of College Students’ Responsibility Consciousness

The Indifference towards Political Events, the Lack of National Sense of Identity

Some college students show indifference to the political events. As the survey depicted after “two sessions” in 2006, 30 percent of college students made little aware of what the “two sessions” are, and students considered that “two sessions” had nothing to do with them with 40 percent. 20 percent of students hold the view that “two sessions” were political rhetoric formality. The rest watched the related news.

Western social thought and values exert bad effect on college students. With the establishment of Chinese socialist market economy and expansion of reform and opening up to the outside, the western thought and values enter into our society, imparting our contemporary college students’ philosophy on life and values. A majority of them lack in the systematic knowledge and understanding of the western though system, as a result of superstition about it. For example, western pragmatism and individualism provide theoretical bases for self-centered college students. They tend to be such kind of people who pay more attention to pragmatism, benefits and enjoy rights without performing duties. The period of university is of great importance to form world outlook and philosophy of college students’ lives. The disorder of this thought field makes bad difference to the inner heart of college students, leading to their deprivation of the pursuit of ideals and responsibilities to society and other people.

The Indifference towards Individual Values, the Lack of Sense of Self-Realization.

Some college students are not responsible for themselves, and lack the sense of initiative and consciousness. They often are absent from class and addicted to computer games, from which they cannot free themselves. Some of them unreasonably pursue fashion, and are blind to compare with others. They are lavish of the money that parents earn them through hard toil. Some end their or others’ life in an extreme way when they have a rough time. In disregard of the value of their lives, they neglect the assumed responsibilities to parents, other people and society. The others put their private merits first and care less about the society with the lack of sacrifice.

There are short of due attention and effective methods on the cultivation of college students’ responsibility consciousness in the university. The education of the sense of responsibility is the quality education valued by all the countries. However, our educational system is based on examination-oriented education, which makes the schools pay more attention to the results rather than the ideological and moral education. The university is no exception. For example, results can still play decisive role in a variety of assessment activities, post-graduation examinations and recommendation of post graduates without examination. Actually, the education of university aims to
teaching college students’ knowledge and skills for their life and development. The cultivation of their responsibility consciousness and favorable moral quality is much more important. However, the current education of university tends to be tool-oriented and merit-oriented, and the moral education is marginalized. In addition, the moral education of university doesn’t take effective measures to the cultivation of responsibility consciousness with little attention, which is difficult for college students be determined and healthy. On the contrary, numerous young men are eliminated in the several examinations, with a crowd of social elites who are weak-minded and short of sense of mission left.

**The Indifference towards Sacrifice, the Lack of Sense of Social Morality**

When it comes to love, some college students express the attitude towards extreme irresponsibility, and they don’t strive to fall in love all the time, only to strive for once to process. They prefer being loved to performing duty. Some lack the consciousness of honesty and gratitude. For example, they cheat in the exams without efforts during their studies, and fabrication of educational qualification, tuition arrear, and overdue loan happen from time to time in the university. As is often the case, they treat their teachers with contempt and care nothing about social sufferings.

One of the main reasons is that a majority of post-90s college students are only children. They process superior living condition, and enjoy the multiple love and care from parents and the elders, additionally they come cross less setback and hardship. Finally, they get weak-minded and dependent. When they are in trouble, the first is to evade rather than overcome. Because they feel extremely painful in the setback, and even some of them search to get rid of suffering in an extreme way. Meanwhile, some parents believe that children’s study is beyond everything, so they attach more importance to children study with ignoring the cultivation of quality. They take on excessive responsibilities which should be assumed by their children. Consequently, children cannot take good care of themselves after entering into the university, not to mention being responsible for others and society. These children consider more what other people should do for them and care less about what they are obliged to do for their parents, other people and society. It’s obvious that superior living condition and parents’ overindulgence make some college students become half-socialized. That’s why they cannot make correct aware of themselves, their status and role in the society or their historic mission and social responsibility.

**How to Raise the Consciousness of College Students’ Responsibility**

**Clear the Responsibility Consciousness to Inspire College Students Based on the Family as Enlightenment**

The cultivation of college students’ responsibility consciousness is a systematic project with comprehensive management. From the angle of family education, parents should teach their children to learn to perform their duties all-round. Children are not supposed to be responsible for results. From the angle of basic education, examination-oriented education should be switched into quality-oriented education, and the cultivation of responsibility consciousness is viewed as an important target in the quality-oriented education.

**Guarantee the Cultivation of Responsibility Consciousness Based on the University as Melting Pot**

Teachers should cultivate the college students’ sense of responsibility in the university. They are required to lead students to form comprehensive and correct value of responsibility. The sense of responsibility is the awareness of individual assumed duty, and it is also the value of related responsibility. Therefore, the sense of responsibility is actually the values of responsibility. Teachers should help students to realize what responsibility they have to take on via a variety of effective educational methods. College students should understand that every member has to perform certain responsibility. They are a group of outstanding people among young men. It means that they have to
take on more duties than the people in same age. They should have a better understanding of a colorful life which is also a life filled with performed duties. A life is a meaningless life without dedication and assumed responsibility. University educators will teach college students collectivism and patriotism, helping them to form comprehensive and correct value of responsibility. Students should be responsible for their study and family as well as other people, the community and motherland.

**Promote the Practice of Responsibility Consciousness Based on Society as Experiment Pilot**

As for the great climate of social environment, the correct orientation in public opinion and values should be set up to reduce the pessimism of society. The university should guide students to be responsible and a useful person. The society is supposed to provide more chances and methods for students taking on responsibility; furthermore, it aims to cultivating the ability of being brave to perform duty and obligation. Owing to the short of the ability and courage, some college students dare not assume responsibility. Teachers should guide students to take part in different kinds of activities to perform duty, and help them to learn how to successfully take on responsibility. In addition, college students’ courage and ability of responsibility can be gradually cultivated.

**References**

