The Times Call for Holistic Education

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Abstract. As a rose has its thorns, modernization also has two sides. On the one hand, it improves people's living standards, but on the other hand caused a crisis of meaning of people. In education, the modernization of the impact is profound. Modern education has made unprecedented progress, but it loses its aims and brings about bias in systems and content. Therefore, the philosopher of Taiwan's new-scholasticism Guang Luo pointed out that this is a need for education reform era, education should return to the holistic education.

With the development of modernization, there is "earth-shaking" in living: as a gift, modernization bring out of poverty, colorful life, happiness seems to be in the front of eye. However, with the smile of happiness there is a serious "crisis of meaning."The essence of modern is materialize, which ignore spirit so that it causes people’s confusion. Overseas scholars have pointed out that the crisis of meaning consists of three levels: "First, moral lost; Second, sense of being lost; Third, metaphysical lost, thus we are faced with the task of reflection, that asking for this crisis and lost."

Under this background, Guang Luo, the Taiwan’s new-scholastic philosophy scholar, who reflected deeply on current education, pointed out that this is an era of calls for education reform, which is a call holistic education era.

The Era Calls for Education Reform

Mr. Luo pointed out that "education is to cultivate the mind of man; therefore education is not a profession, but a mission". The mission is to cultivate the holistic culture and education should be holistic education. He looked through the actual depth of observation, found that modern education is already deviated from this mission in three aspects, and this era is the era of calls for education reform.

Lost Educational Goal - to Make a Living

The goal about education is the fundamental reason for the existence of education. When the deviation of the educational goals is happen, the entire education will be a major problem. Mr. Luo pointed out that the education goals had deviated seriously with the acceleration of modernization.

Pursuit of interests and maximization of benefits is a serious problem of modernity. Education was also not spared, so that education has become a pursuit of utilitarian tools.

From those who teach, "the tutorial education is already become a way of making money, or a business. The owners make a living by cram school, teachers earn extra money by tutoring. This phenomenon fully demonstrates that our education does not go the right track, but go the wrong way, and destroyed the entire educational system and spirit." From students, "in the minds of students, employment for individuals to make a living as the first, this is a 'benefit' word". With the process of materialization, teacher is no longer teaching for shaping the soul of people, learning is no longer in pursuit of the spirit of satiety. Behind this, there is a "profit" that drives run education system. Teachers in order to pursue immediate benefit hold teaching as a means of livelihood, and students interest in learning as a springboard to get a good job for the future.

East China Normal University, Professor Zun-Min Wu believes that education is to cultivate righteous man, that was nature, and personality perfect person, rather than ignore the"human"culture of
so-called 'talent'; and education returns to its own nature which needs to change the quo that education continues to be carried away by economy."[5]

**Education System Imbalance – Exam**

The education system is the means to ensure achieving the goal of education, but also is the foundation to maintain running of the entire education system. Therefore, if there is a problem in the education system, it will also affect the nature and objectives of education.

In Taiwan, there is a joint entrance examination system (JUPAS). This system is a mechanism to enter a higher school, which is divided into high school entrance exam and college entrance exams. High school entrance exam is the joint exam defined by junior high school rose to senior middle school, while college entrance exams is the joint exam defined by enior middle school rose to college exam.

Guang Luo said: "JUPAS causes the deviation entire primary and secondary education, ignoring life education, teaching target be to the test, the rise of a full range of remedial education",[3]"some slow born talent, these students can’t academic pressure by parents and schools, or skip class, or do not read to make bad friends, learning social bad atmosphere, and becomes bad student."[3]

There are two main aspects about JUPAS negative impact: first, JUPAS lead to primary and secondary schools in order to achieve "a carp leaping over" leap, but just only to the exam as the goal, to focus only on the case of the test subjects. For ignoring the spiritual and moral aspects of education, it results in serious problems of juvenile delinquency and Moral landslide. Second, JUPAS cause swelling of remedial education, remedial classes are everywhere, even from kindergarten to start a variety of tutoring. Under the influence of utilitarianism, some teachers in order to make money, don’t teach seriously in school, but start tutorial classes after-school and claim that students must taking.

Education is not the occupation, but the mission, which affects the future of the entire society and a nation. Exam system has been showing the consequences it is in urgent need to change. So Mr. Luo promotes holistic education, and replies to the original purpose of education system.

**Lack of Educational Content – Practical**

Complete educational content is also an important factor in the quality of education development. With the promoting of modernization, education to some extent become a career, and to some extent become a means. Therefore, the content of education focus only on the target subjects, the subjects almost nothing to do with the target is not considered, even the right of learning is deprived.

Guang Luo criticizes utilitarian of education, he criticizes that students struggle only for "employment". What he would criticize isn’t practical knowledge, nor the professional tendency and practicality. Guang Luo would to criticize that the goal of learning and education is only earn big money for future, he wants to criticize the students' learning without thinking, and the pursuit of enjoyment of education and learning.

In Guang Luo’s opinion, mind and matter are one organism, human development should not only focus on improving the material life, but also pay attention to the development of their spiritual life, "head without brain" life is only focus on the pursuit of material life. "National happiness is to have healthy life; healthy life is to balance the material and spiritual life; the spiritual life is also basic for material life."[4] Compared to material life, spiritual life is more important, which influence personal significance presence, also affect the development of the country and society. Now only focus on education enrollment rate deserves be criticized, because it forgets also deprives the status of spiritual education, and the losses are unpredictable.

"Excellent but no soul" is said to utilitarian atmosphere Harvard by the former Harvard College dean Harry Lewis. This course can also be seen on the current China University of warning."[6] Only look pretty empty shell, and the lack of which live beyond the sinking of the soul, is the serious consequences caused by utilitarian education. How to repair, reform? Guang Luo pointed out that go
back to the holistic education, that holistic education system, content, objectives have returned to the essence of education.

The Education Reform Measures

Holistic education is a life education, which takes care for whole human; holistic education is an ethical education; holistic education is a kind of education for all, everyone has the right to be educated and everyone has the responsibility to accept educated. Not only that, Guang Luo has a deep relationship between education reform and development of education, so he surely makes many viable proposals.

Imposing the Role of the Government and Collaboration with Community

Holistic education is education for all, everyone has the right, also has the responsibility. Therefore, to running good education must collaborate with each other in the whole society, exerting the role of the national government, to carry out their duties.

First, Guang Luo affirms the value of the government in education. Running schools is the responsibility of the State to handle the power of the country. Running schools is the thing to kill two birds with one stone, "the objects of humanistic education is human, and its goal is to teach people to live a good life. People be educated living within a country and state running education, it must to meet the national purposes. Teaching people to live a good life and to meet the needs of the country, is not in conflict, but with each other as good co-ordination. People pursue good living, which need to assist the country; the need of nation is that national welfare, so that citizens can live a good life."[7]

Secondly, Luo proposed state-run education should be done in collaboration with each other. On the one hand, the state should cooperation with the social to establish good research centers, "First, to develop excellent university institutes...Second, government should do legislation to promote strong industrial and commercial capital of the company can establish the Bank of excellent research center."[7] On the other hand, Guang Luo promotes vigorously to development private education, he said that private schools is adapt to social development, also beneficial for the government, "the private school is located, it can enhance the effectiveness of education. On the one hand, the government's financial resources is difficult to establish a national schools that suit social needs, so setting up a private school education can apply for government assistance. On the other hand, education can have a variety of features and expertise, setting up a private school education can take into account the characteristics of expertise in the development."[2]

Finally, Guang Luo also provided some valuable advice against using of funds in education. He pointed out that "education is not linked to money and never be able to set up schools for profit, and private schools must not be a family business."[3] Schools should be changed the purpose for profit to the cultivation of development of the whole person. At the same time, it is a must to guarantee the living of staff, provide a cozy research environment, improve the treatment, so that they do not run around for life, nor abandoned academic studies to make money. Therefore, when the government distribute the educational funds, it must takes into account to the overall situation, take care of the interests of all parties, and allocates funds according to the number of teachers and students in schools (including private schools) and their situation.

Absorbing Traditional Experience and Focusing on Family Education

Holistic education is a comprehensive education. In the education, family play the basic role, but family, school and society must be consistency. "The tricyclical and consistent education base on family education and also ensure in family education."[3] The education of schools and community must be to get a foothold and practice in the family. "Because family education is fundamental to
education, no one else can replace it. Lack of family education, school education is like a house without foundation, when it meets a storm from social bad atmosphere, the house would be collapsed."[3]

However, in today's modern society, the material of the wheel has destroyed the consistency of education, destroyed the foundation of education. Guang Luo pointed out that the current lack of family education has brought serious social problems, juvenile crime rate is increasing. He therefore proposed to implement the "three generations living together" family model, "the young are managed to sacrifice a little selfish comfort to implement the 'three generations living together'. May be in a house, or living together in an apartment or in a common-law, it can get the goal of 'neighborhood watch' and enjoy family fun."[3]

Guang Luo gave more respect to traditional ethics education. Chinese traditional culture with ethics as the first, so that home education ethics education should be at the core. Some ancient Chinese scholars left some valuable family motto, and the basic lessons and essence able to remain as a reference to family education.

Developing All-Round Education, We Need to Execute Faith Education

Holistic education is universal education, the moral and ethical education, it's more life education. The foundation of the life education or ethics education is religious education. So Guang Luo proposed that the development of the whole person must pay attention to religious education.

"Religious education is the most benign way of character education. Religion is not superstition, it can be tempting correct outlook on life, a moral cultivation methods, and encourage students to strive to practice". [4] Religion is not superstition, we must update our ideas, it will not be like superstitious as hazardous to human thought, on the contrary it gives people a spiritual lift, it is the best way of character education, moral change is reduced to the best religious thought gives value to provide meaningful pursuit of the purpose of life, the final completion of the growth of the whole person.

Further, Guang Luo noted that Chinese traditional culture is essentially based on religious beliefs. He said: "I have studied Chinese philosophy, wrote a series of history of Chinese philosophy, my conclusion is that if not faith in God explained by "Collection of Ancient Texts" and "The Book of Songs", whole Confucian ethics would be collapsed, just like what happened in the Republic of China. Ancient Chinese philosophers think that religion is the relationship between the gods and religious people, unlike Western think that is a person's whole life. However, Confucian ethics is based on 'destiny', pursuit unity of heaven and man, driven by heaven reward and punishment. Everyone respect and worship to ancestors or god, worship god is as a national ceremony, and respect ancestors is the important etiquette in family."[7] Facing modern conflict, many people advocate for a return to the traditional Chinese ethics, but Guang Luo pointed out that education should be back to the most fundamental religious beliefs, Confucian ethics without the faith in God, is simply overwhelmed by the impact of substance.

Conclusion

In today's rapid development of modern education, we will require to return to holistic education. This time need to focus on holistic education of life, need the holistic education about the national action, and holistic education will provide answers to the meaning of the crisis. Of course, to develop holistic education isn’t just now, but need to invest energy, time and huge capital projects, it’s a long-term goal. In this process, we should give full play to the functions of the government to run public schools good, but also to strengthen multilateral collaboration community, encourage to set up private schools and colleges of construction; absorb valuable experience from traditional culture and education, focusing on family education, focusing on life ethics education and faith education, which can provide meaning to life, provide basic support to social development and cultivate talent with
all-round development. The realization of holistic education will be the success of education, but also the achievement of national development and people's well-being.

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References


