The Contemporary Enlightenment of Rousseau's Natural Education Thought

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Abstract. Natural education is the core content of Rousseau's educational thoughts. His natural education theory, center, purpose, principle and method are not only at that time against the feudal system, making significance to eliminate The abuse of medieval Education, but also can provide some reference for the principle of cognition and method of education reform in our country on the current.

Rousseau's natural education thought seriously criticized the feudal education system and the system of religion, promoted the spread of bourgeois ideology, and made great contributions to the progress of the whole western education. At present, our country advocate quality education, each area has carried out the new curriculum reform, the "natural education", "children's center" and "education is the experience of the natural development" that in the educational thoughts of Rousseau provides references of teaching contents, teaching methods and educational goals for the new curriculum reform.

The Connotation of Rousseau's Natural Education Thought

Theory of Natural Education

Rousseau believes that the so-called natural education is to follow the natural instincts of human, for the purpose of developing human nature and consistent with people's physical and mental development phase. The education includes three aspects: natural education, people's education and things education. The natural education is the inner development of the people's talent and the organ (Natural Law Education); Human education is the education that for children on how to use their own organ development ability (School education); Things education is gaining experience through education of the things (Environmental Education). These three kinds of education should avoid conflicts, harmonious and consistent, and tend to the common goal; only in this way can we develop a timely talent. This is the basic interpretation of Rousseau's natural education.

"In these three different kinds of education, the education of nature is not entirely determined by us, but in some ways the education of things can be determined by us. Only people's education is the only way we can truly controlled; and the control is assumed, because no one can control all the words and actions of all the people around a child."\textsuperscript{[1]}, therefore, to make the three kinds of education coordinated toward a common goal and form good education, we must make the controllable factors Conscious trend and cooperate with uncontrollable factors, that is to make human education and things education consciously take the nature of education as the main axis, around the natural education, to achieve the good
coordination and operation of the three. Therefore, all education should follow the natural law as the basic requirement, the human education and things education should adapt to the needs of different individuals and physical development in different periods, only the "nature" as a common pursuit, can have a good education. This is the basic principle of Rousseau's natural education.

**The center of Natural Education**

Rousseau emphasized the development of human's natural ability, this kind of human nature theory has brought the profound influence to the education. It has initiated the educational history Copernicus type discovery, namely "the discovery of the child". Rousseau takes the children as the starting point of education, and thinks that it is a straight line between the social needs and the starting point, which is a new interpretation of Rousseau's theory of education. Rousseau in the "Emile" mentioned "in the order of things, human beings have his position; in the life of the order, childhood has its place: we should treat the adult as the adult, the child as a child." [Jean Jacques Russo] "if we disrupt the order, we will result in some of the early fruit, they grow neither sweet nor plump, and soon decay: we will cause some young doctors and old children."[2] Children have their own unique cognition, thinking and feelings; cannot be replaced by adult way. In Rousseau's view, people's life expectancy is not sure, therefore, he opposed to the so-called distant future happiness and sacrifice the happiness of the moment, against the atmosphere of education for the future life. Education should take children as the center, according to the physical and mental development of children's age, gender, personality, interest and other factors in planning the content of education, and use the education way that children's self interested and willing to accept. The content and method of education are not decided by adults to make education way on the free path.

For the first time, Rousseau raised the children to the center, and turned the long-standing position of the adult standard, so that the children's status from passive to active, the nature is no longer suppressed, children get the full freedom of development. Rousseau found the child in the history of education, and affirmed the intrinsic value of his childhood. Gerd said "Emile" is "Natural gospel of Education". This gospel is the discovery of the children.

**The purpose of Natural Education**

The freedom of man is the core of Rousseau's concern and pursuit, but also the value of his educational thoughts. The purpose of natural education is to cultivate a kind of education that is the different from the feudal society of the bourgeoisie rational kingdom "new" or "natural person", that is the "natural person" who is not bound by tradition, the coordinated development of physical and mental, Able to earn, full and free development. Therefore, Rousseau's natural education does not require people to really "back to nature", but to return to the subjectivity of human, to do their own masters. This educational purpose of personal perfection as a starting point, the pursuit of the free development of people is "Individual standard theory". Rousseau's education aims open up the "individual standard theory" in the west, which lays the theoretical foundation for the value orientation of the educational purpose of the later generations.

**Principles and methods of Natural Education**

According to the educational purpose of "natural person", Rousseau put forward the principles and methods of natural education, aiming at the disadvantages of the compulsory education of the feudal education at that time.
Firstly, education should follow the principle of step by step, implemented phase education for children. Rousseau stressed that education is the equilibrium state of desire and ability, and the state of equilibrium will change with age increases. Therefore, education should also change with the changing age and psychological characteristics. In order to achieve this goal, Rousseau divided education into four stages: infancy, childhood, adolescence and youth, different education contents should be emphasized in each education stage: infants should be free to develop, nature is the best education for children; children should pay attention to their physical training and sensory training, Rousseau at this stage advocate negative education of no morality and knowledge; carry out vocational education to juvenile; love education for youth. In addition, Rousseau also specifically makes a detailed description for women's education and adult education after the marriage.

Secondly, education is the natural development of experience, and this experience focuses on direct experience. Rousseau advocates to gain experience in life, with the continuous accumulation of experience and development, naturally become a rational person. He believes that feeling experience is the first step in education; rational reason is based on the experience of feeling. Before the age of 2, children rely on experience to draw on the advantages and avoid disadvantages; Between 2 and 12 years old, Rousseau advocated physical training on children's physical exercise, the experience gained will enable children to understand cooperative sports and intellectual development, the physical strength can make children could start thinking about nature toward the rational path. Therefore, Rousseau advocated the children to exercise in nature; it can not only enhance physical fitness but also cultivate a strong will. However, Rousseau one-sided emphasis on personal experience gained, ignoring the importance of the system learning of science knowledge has become one of the major drawbacks of its natural education.

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Return to Students' Main Body Position

About what the main problems of teachers and students have differences in the history of Education. The past will always elevate the status of teachers, the students only learn what the teacher teaches, the teacher is the center of education, classroom is tailored for teachers, students are only passive acceptance machine, teaching methods are also more for the infusion. Rousseau's children center theory subverts the traditional concept of teachers, students will return to the subject position, stressed that education should focus on the students, teachers should play a guiding role, and fully mobilize the enthusiasm of students, so that students can actively participate in the teaching process, develop thinking ability, become the people who is adapt to social needs. Therefore, at this stage of education, on the one hand, teachers should recognize the dominant position of students, adopt heuristic teaching method to eliminate "cramming" education, cultivate students' ability to discover and solve problems, use the student favorite way to teach, excavate students' creative potential. On the other hand, teachers and parents should not be too much interfere with students, order students, force students, and students should be encouraged to think boldly, dare to ask questions, appreciate the students' curiosity about the world, give full play to the students' intelligence.

Follow the Principle of the Stage of Education

Natural education is the core content of Rousseau's educational thought, education should not only follow the nature, but also according to the law of physical and mental development,
to achieve the ultimate goal of education step by step. Rousseau strongly criticized that regardless of the students' ability to accept a taste of the teaching methods of mandatory indoctrination of scholasticism, against the will of the adult strongly added to the students. In China, there is not lack of phenomenon of an old head on young shoulders. At present, Rousseau's natural education has great reference value in the quality education: First of all, students do what they can do, don't force students to do things that cannot be done. Secondly, teachers should teach students in accordance with the development of physical and mental development level, ability and characteristics of process. For students of different ages, different educational contents are set up. Thirdly, to put an end to the practice of advanced education, follow the law of the natural growth of students the need for a long time to complete the task must not be completed in a short time.

Training All-Round Development of Talents

Rousseau's education aims provide the value standard for the talent of the new century. In addition, Rousseau's educational content also pointed out the direction for our country's educational goals at this stage. In "Emile", Rousseau analysis the thought of all-round development. He pointed out that "the body first spirit, then we should first cultivate the body, the order of men and women are the same." Therefore, Rousseau believes that the development of physical strength is the basis for the development of all. Physical, moral and intellectual education are interrelated and mutually reinforcing relationship, physical development promotes the growth and development of the mind, the development will go further guidance on how to exercise, and create a more robust physique. The new century, China should also cultivate all-round talents. However, at this stage, China's obesity rate rising, the rate of myopia increases, increasing emphasis on intellectual phenomenon, young people's physique declining. Therefore, we should vigorously promote the training objectives of the comprehensive development of physical exercise for students of different ages of the body, improve the overall quality of teachers of Ideological and moral education, reduce the students' burden culture course, cultivate all-round development of people in need of new century society will.

Advocate activities education method

Rousseau's theory that education is the experience of the natural development advocates the students’ earning knowledge independently and training ability in the activities and the life experience, the content of education is embodied in the activity teaching method. "Activity based teaching method is a new teaching method, generally refers to the provision of appropriate teaching situation of teachers according to the teaching requirements and student knowledge acquisition for students, set on the basis of the extent and characteristics of physical and mental development of students, let the students with their ability to participate in reading, discussion, games, learning with classroom teaching operation the method or process of learning knowledge." This shows that in the teaching activities, teachers should according to the physical and mental development of students and the degree of knowledge acceptance rules to design and carry out various forms, lively and vivid activities, so as to arouse the students' interest in learning, to achieve good teaching effect. Education in the present stage still belongs to the traditional knowledge imparting education in a certain extent, and cannot improve the ability of students to explore the ability and theory with practical ability, therefore, activity teaching method is very important to promote the quality education and the new curriculum reform. In the process of the implementation of the activities of
teaching, we must first ensure that the activities of the interesting design, for different stages of the students in different forms of design activities, adult education should not be taken to the students' classroom; Secondly, as far as possible to enable students to find their own problems and solve the problem, the teacher give their guidance and encouragement to mobilize the students the greatest initiative and to create a favorable environment for the development of students thinking; Finally, after the end of the event, the students should do a simple summary of the activities carried out in order to achieve the corresponding teaching results.

Summary
Rousseau's naturalistic education thought has impacted the decadent feudal system. It is a powerful ideological weapon against the feudal rule of the bourgeoisie, meet the needs of the western society, promote the establishment and development of capitalism in Western europe, has a distinct era and a strong ideological color. At the same time, the concept of "respect for humanity", "focus on practice" and "subject participation" in Rousseau's naturalistic education thought has the significance and value of cross era and cross country. Therefore, its educational thought has opened the origin of the subjective naturalism education, influenced Pestalozzi and a number of educators. Its "individual standard theory" and "children's center" have laid the foundation stone for the later modern education idea. As Kant said:"Rousseau is another Newton, Newton completed the outside of the natural science, Rousseau has completed the human inner universe of science". [5]

Reference