Exploration on Moral Status and Construction of Contemporary College Students

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Abstract

College students are specific groups with higher moral qualities and cultural knowledge among youth in China. Their moral status and its trends relate to whether they can grow to be qualified builders and reliable successors of the construction of socialism. Research show that the moral mainstream of contemporary college students is positive, but there are a series of issues concerning social morality, e.g., professional ethics, family virtues and morality on internet, which closely related to the real environment they live and its population characteristics. Actively strengthen the moral construction of college students can make them grow healthily and become talents smoothly.

Key words: College students; Ethics; Problems; Construction

INTRODUCTION

The party's 18 report states that "The socialism with Chinese characteristics is a future-oriented business, needs young generations continue to fight for" (Hu, 2012, p.56). University students is a group in youths having a higher overall quality and bear the historical responsibility, their moral status directly relate to the success or failure of the construction of socialism with Chinese characteristics. Comprehensive understanding of the students' moral status and trends and strengthening the moral construction of college students have great practical significance. In order to know the contemporary college students' moral status through the comparative study, the research group took strict probability sampling methods on the moral state of our citizens with a questionnaire survey and collected 4391 samples, and there are 1031 valid samples of college students, the survey results are processed with SPSS18.0 analysis, after the reliability test, $\alpha = 0.752$, standardized $\alpha = 0.838$, indicates the reliability of the questionnaire is good, and can be used for scientific research.

1. MAINSTREAM OF COLLEGE STUDENTS' MORALITY IS POSITIVE

The research and comparative analysis of the contemporary situation of civic morality and moral status of Chinese college students shows that moral mainstream of college students is positive and in a good momentum of development, which is mainly reflected in four aspects such as social morality, family values, professional ethics and network morality.

1.1 College Students' Morality Mainstream Is in Good Condition

College students are also citizens of the society, their morality status affects the level and trend of social morality. Survey results show that the overall morality of contemporary college students is in good condition mainly performs in the following aspects:

First, a strong sense of social morality. The result on the status of the college students' social morality shows 81.2 % of them agree that "everyone should have the spirit of serving the people," 88.2% of them agree with "tolerant of others and strict with ourselves"; 73.3% them oppose "spirit of Lei Feng is out of date now," 61.6% oppose that

"honest and trustworthy suffer losses," and 76.3% of them oppose "if it is legal, we can do anything". This indicates that the majority of students has a strong sense of morality and identifies social morality norms.

Second, a higher cognitive level of social morality. The level of moral awareness is an important measure for moral qualities (Blum, 1994). When students answer the questions, "What do you think morality should contain", the five choices such as "helping others", "care of public property", "politeness", "protecting the environment" are selected more than 81.0%, each of it is higher than average citizens' being researched. This reflects the high level of social ethics awareness of majority of college students.

Third, morality behavior is good. Moral behavior is a true reflection of personal morality. Research results show that college students who "often" or "sometimes" have habits contrary to public morality as spitting, littering, queue jumping, shouting, graffiti and running the red lights do not exceed 10.1%. In response to "If come across criminal acts, what you will usually do", 13.9 percent of college students said they would "stand up to stop it," 61.5 % said they would "ask for help to stop", which is 10% higher than the average. This indicates that the majority of students can not only better restrain their morality anomie behaviors, and take the initiative to stop others' behaviors endangering social order, showing a higher level of morality.

1.2 The Mainstream of College Students' Family Morality Is Good

Family morality is an important part of citizen's morality, for most college students, their experience and judgment of family morality will influence the future development of the society's family morality. The research shows, their family morality is positive, and represent below:

First, higher levels of family moral awareness. "Filial piety" is an important part of family virtues, answering question "what is filial piety", 90.8% college students selected "family communication", much higher than other options; at the same time, 50.4 % selected "material return", 6.3% higher than the average. This indicates that the majority of students have the right cognition on the "filial piety", and desire to return the material to their families through individual efforts to express filial piety.

Second, the ability judging family morality is good. When answering "how do you think the relationship between men and women in the family", 81.8 % college students think "man and woman are equal"; on how to deal with children, 87.7% college students think that we should "let the children learn to be independent", 8.4% higher than the average. This suggests that the concept of gender equality in family relations has become the consensus of the majority of students, and they hope to strengthen self-reliance among children, and give them more freedom and space.

Third, the family moral evaluation is good. Findings on family relationships evaluation show that 81.7% students think that their family relationships are good; 60.0% think family virtues is becoming better in different degrees. This indicates that the majority of students have good evaluation on the status of family relationships, and optimistic to the development trend of family morality.

1.3 College Students' Mainstream of Professional Ethics Is Good.

As the incensement of awareness and opportunities of college students participating in various social practices, they have experiences and recognitions in varying degrees for professional ethics. Research results show that professional ethics of contemporary college students is good, mainly represent in the following areas:

First, a high level of professional ethics awareness. 86.5% college students made right choice on "dedication" and 90.7% made right choice on "honest and trustworthy", which are two basic elements of professional ethics, the selection rate of "serve the people" and "contributing to society" was 73.2% and 77.9% respectively, were significantly higher than the average, only 6.3 % students said "I do not know". 76.0% college students believe that complying with the professional ethics development helps to promote individuals' development, 2.3% higher than the overall level; and 83.0% college students think that comply with professional ethics more important for the promotion of social development. These data indicate that the vast majority of college students have a clear understanding on the basic content of professional ethics, individual and social values.

Second, complying with the basic norms of professional ethics, professional ethical behaviors can truly and directly reflect the personal and professional ethics. In response to "whether you can adhere to professional ethics in the course of work", 94.7% college students said "adhere", higher than the average; only 0.2% choose "never insist". This indicates that the vast majority of colleges' students can adhere to professional ethics in their work, consciously restrain their professional behavior.

1.4 Students' Network Moral Status Mainstream Better

College students are the main force in today's networks, their study, entertainment and life always associate with the network, and therefore, their moral status of the network relates to the morality of the whole network of society. Research results show that the overall state of network morality of college students is good.

First, the moral sense of network is strong. For question "whether should comply with network morality", 67.1% college students think "Network morality is real, it should be complied with", 7.7% higher than the average; 16.9% of them think that "morality of network is virtual, but must be complied with", 10.5% college students chose "do not have to comply with the network morality",

1.8% lower than the average. As an important subject of network activity, the vast majority of college students actively support the specification of network behaviors, and there is a strong consciousness of network morality.

Second, consciously constraint network Immoralities. Survey results show that 81.8% college students oppose "disclosure of personal information online"; 79.5% oppose "manufacturing and disseminating false information online"; 78.5% said, "When the site does not display personal identity, I will not publish invasion of privacy," is 10% higher than the average. This indicates that the majority of students require stopping kinds of violations of ethical behavior online; this shows a strong self-discipline and network moral behavior.

Second, College Students' ethical issues worthy of concerned and analysis of the reasons

2. COLLEGE STUDENTS' MORAL ISSUES WORTHY OF CONCERN AND ANALYSIS OF REASONS

There are moral issues of college students, these problems are the result of many factors working together.

2.1 Students' Moral Issues Worthy of Attention

First, lack of initiation of practicing morality. For the question "When you see someone is damaging public property, how do you usually do", 30.3% college students said "condemn later", 15.7% lower than the average; 22.1% college students said they would "pretend not seeing," 7.7% higher than the average. These data indicate that contemporary college students are lack of initiative in the practice of morality.

Second, tolerance for the family immoralities is higher. For the frequently appeared "extramarital affair" in current society, 52.7% college students hold the attitude of "strongly oppose" 3.4% lower than the average; 25.0% believe that "it's a matter of personal privacy, do not condemn," 16.6% said they "understand", 1.3% said "identify", these items were selected more than the average. This suggests that college students are very tolerant to the problem of the violation of family virtues, such as extramarital affairs.

Third, professional responsibility is not strong. In response to "your attitude to your work," 64.1% college students said they would "conscientiously strive for perfection," 3.3% lower than the average; 28.1% said "do not seek actively, but will try," was 2.5% higher than the average. These data indicate that some students are lack of initiative to their work and their professional responsibility is not strong.

Fourth, the network is moral anomie. For the question "Have you ever viewed pornographic websites", 4.5% college students said "often", 9.3% said "sometimes", 20.1% said "occasionally", the total proportion was 33.9%. This reflects some students have different levels of network Immoralities.

2.2 Analysis of the Reasons of Students' Moral Problems

Ethical issues which appear among students, is the result of many factors working together, mainly affected by the following factors.

First, the adverse effects in the society. The range of studying and living for students is mainly universities, but in the open circumstance, universities as a "ivory tower" is not a piece of pure land, the "climate" of the social atmosphere also affects the development and change universities' "microclimate". The findings show that a considerable part of the students think is a bad social atmosphere is main reason influencing social morality (71.1%), family virtues (46.0%), ethics (76.3%) and network ethics (44.6%). Although the social atmosphere of any historical period in any country cannot be absolutely pure, but it is a critical period of contemporary China changing from an agricultural society to an industrial society, the socialist market economic system is not yet perfect, pragmatism, money worship, extreme individualism, hedonism and other adverse trend has spread to some extent, resulting in varying degrees of influence on social atmosphere , thereby affecting the healthy development of part of the students' moral literacy.

Second, the effect of school education and guidance is limited. The healthy development of college students moral development is affected by the system of school education (Bebeau, et a1., 1982). There are ideological and political course in primary school, middle school, high school and university's training programs, give full play of the function of the main channel of classroom education, and actively guide students in the development of moral awareness, moral emotion, and moral behavior. But it is undeniable that the content of moral education at different stages has a certain degree of overlapping, and the teaching method is single; prominently explain moral "ought" issues, ignoring the various social phenomena, timely response and analysis of social issues; emphasize on students' cognitive and moral judgment tests, ignoring to guide students' moral emotions and moral behavior. These problems can easily lead student's resentment, undermine the positive effects of school education on the moral development of college students.

Third, parents' "Protected" education. In the analysis of the survey results, the contemporary college students have full access to the era dominated by post-90, as the only child in a family, they are entrusted the parents' expectations, parents particularly emphasize on the safety and health of the only child, and even exceed the expectations for their talent. For this reason, some of the parents on the one hand as much as possible create favorable environment for the children's growth, on the other hand to minimize the risks and setbacks for the

children, and even asked the children at all times to ensure the "personal safety" as the top priority, and educate their children it is ethical only manage their words and deeds. This kind of education makes it appears "self-centered" phenomenon after these students enter college, a variety of wrong moral awareness, unhealthy moral emotions, and "tolerant" attitude to immoralities, affect the improvement of individuals' ideological and moral qualities.

Fourth, the rules and moral regulations are unsound during social transformation. Contrast to the "rigid" binding of regulatory regime, the morality relies on "soft" constraints of public opinion; both of them have their own characteristics. In fact, the improvement of students' moral literacy needs flexible force of public opinion supervision and restraint of rigid rules and regulations (Bennett & Blaney, 2002). In the current critical period of social transition, it appears a number of new areas, new phenomena and new problems, related laws and regulations construction is lagging, appearing a "moral vacuum" or "moral fuzzy boundaries". Survey results show that 76.4% college students think relevant the imperfect laws and regulations are the primary factor affecting public morality, 68.9 % students believe that it is the main factor affecting professional ethics, 56.3% students think that it is the main factor affecting network morality. The unsound rules and regulations is likely to result in some students' moral cognition fuzzy, then lead to immoralities.

Fifth, the lack of personal self-discipline. College students have high level of cultural knowledge, but they are 18-23 years old, have aspirations and a strong sense of social responsibility, and eager to break the shackles of the existing framework, and interested in various "anti-mainstream" or "anti-traditional" things. However, college students' moral sense of right and wrong is still developing, their self-discipline is weak, may inevitably be affected by bad thoughts and bad moral behavior. Meanwhile, in order to integrate into peer groups, some college students may also have ethics violations in the premise of right and wrong because of the "conformity". Thus, some students lack self-discipline subjective reason for their moral problems.

3. STRENGTHEN STUDENTS' MORAL CONSTRUCTION STRATEGY

Students' are in a developing stage of strong moral plasticity, we must address a variety of negative factors, positive intervention and guidance to help students improve the moral quality.

3.1 Actively Optimize the Social Environment
Although any given historical period cannot completely "clean" the social atmosphere, but we must constantly optimize the social environment with a positive attitude

(Durkheim, 1961). On one hand, give full play to promote positive social factors to make moral development of college students, to achieve the utility integration of social "climate" and universities "microclimate", jointly create a favorable external environment for students' moral construction. On another hand, deal with adverse social factors influencing moral development of college students, criticize wrong moral values and behaviors, revealing its hazards, improve college students' moral judgment, and promote the healthy development of their moral sentiments. Of course, optimizing social environment is affected by the level of economic, political and cultural development often requires a planned and phased development.

3.2 Enhance the Effect of Moral Education
University and college is students' main living environment of living and study, improving the moral education in colleges and universities can promote the moral development of college students directly. First, colleges and universities need to improve the ideological and political theory courses teaching methods to improve student interest in learning and motivation. Secondly, the content of the ideological and political theory courses need to respond positively to the real moral issue for the wrong moral values and moral anomie behavior, guide students to analyze and critique, and clear the ethical and moral right orientation. Finally, colleges and universities need to develop students' moral education approaches, not only to give full play to the role of the main channel of the ideological and political theory courses, but put moral education into the curriculum of other main courses, by ways of lectures by experts, social practice, community activities, debate competition, and knowledge competition, to enhance the moral quality of university students by their loved methods.

3.3 Change the Concept of Parental Education
As parents of post-90 and one-child college students, from the family's point of view, a sense of protection and care for children can be understood, but parents should be aware that children will eventually grow up and integrate into society, only with moral improvement, moral cognition, correct moral, healthy emotion, self-discipline and moral behavior in the society, individuals can get basic security and obtain a good survival and development platform. Therefore, the parents of post-90 one-child college students, they must learn to let them go, let the children learn to be independent, and learn to survive; they must change a single "protected" educational philosophy, to guide their children to bear socially responsible, consciously abide by the ethical precept and example, lead children to build good social order and moral environment. Only changing the concept of family education and effectively cooperate with the school's moral education, can achieve the educational effect of "overlay" instead of "friction".

3.4 Build a Sound Legal System and Ethics Rules

Strengthen the moral construction of college students, we must establish and improve relevant laws and regulations, strengthen enforcement, and play a rigid binding. "The law is the minimum morality." Further improve the legal system for new areas, new phenomena and new problems emerging social transformation, to provide legal support to promote the college students' ethics. It should be noted that the strict implementation of laws and regulations plays its role of basic security; If we refuse to perform or just poorly enforced, it will not be useful. Meanwhile, we should actively improve the socialist ethical and timely fill the "moral vacuum", draw moral boundaries, give full play of supervision and guidance of public opinion, provide ideas and deeds in the moral development of students who are in the critical period of moral dimension. By rigid and flexible means, the moral construction of college students was effectively strengthened.

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