

The Educational Significance of Confucian Ideology and Culture to Contemporary College Students

Wang Lu

Xi'an Jiaotong University, Xi'an Shaanxi China 710049

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Abstract: As the main body of Chinese traditional culture, Confucianism is not only China's social philosophy, but also the Chinese philosophy of life. Through the analysis and summary of the mainstream values of contemporary college students, this paper discusses the Confucianism and its significance in contemporary college education. In recent years, with the revival of Chinese traditional culture, Confucianism has once again received people's attention. Various researches, reports and books on Confucianism culture come into the public view. As a young force in social development, college students have great potential to have a more direct, comprehensive and in-depth understanding of Confucian ideology, as they are the group submerged in this traditional ideology.

1. Confucianism and Culture

Confucianism is one of the richest and oldest spiritual traditions in human history. As the mainstream consciousness in ancient China, Confucianism had a profound influence on China, East Asia and even the world. Confucianism began in Yin and Shang dynasties. Confucius established Confucianism into national doctrine and founded it as a profound school of thought. His disciples, like Ceng Zi, Zisi, Mencius, etc. have supplemented and expanded the Confucian theory and formed a set of behavioral norm theories with "benevolence and filial piety" as the core. Emperor Wu of the Han Dynasty "deposed hundreds of schools and respected Confucianism alone", thus establishing the dominant position of Confucianism. The imperial examination system after the Sui Dynasty also took Confucianism as its content, which further developed Confucianism.

"Benevolence" is the core and foundation of Confucianism. Confucius explained the basic meaning of "benevolence" and said: "a gentleman should abide by his own principles and live by his own principles. Filial piety is the foundation of benevolence. "Filial piety means that children should respect and obey their parents and elders, and filial piety means that brothers should be deferential to their brothers. On the other hand, parents must be kind to their children and brothers should be friendly and loving to their younger brothers. The "benevolence" advocated by Confucianism requires human beings to treat all people kindly as if they were their family members. "To treat others as you expect" is to put yourself in others' shoes, and be tolerant to others' flaws and errors. It is also highly advocated that one should spare no effort to help others. These Confucian thoughts stress that people should be friendly, tolerant, helpful and put themselves in others' shoes. Confucianism is a theory about moral and ethical norms in human society. Confucian culture attaches great importance to people's morality and advocates self-cultivation.

Confucius said, "To achieve benevolence, one should make any sacrifice even their own life." Mencius said, "To take justice, one is required to sacrifice one's life ". They all believed that adherence to moral beliefs was even more important than life. This kind of spiritual pursuit has gradually formed a social fashion of valuing propriety and righteousness for the Chinese nation in the ancient Chinese civilization. Mencius put forward that men should preserve their personality of integrity and keep justice against the temptations and threats from the outside world. Under the influence of this spirit, Confucianism has always emphasized distinguishing justice from profit, advocating understanding and abstinence, praising those who persist in pursuing moral ideals, and denouncing those who pursue personal interests. Human virtue and self-cultivation have always been valued. Confucianism attaches great importance to people, especially to people in social relationships and human relations. Confucianism emphasizes the importance of human self-cultivation which can be achieved through dealing with inter-personal relations. Confucianism regards man as a person in a certain ethical relationship and a person who bears ethical responsibility in a certain ethical relationship, thus making the individual's virtue and morality harmonious.

The realization of one's value is closely linked with his relationship with others. The political, family and social relations represented by the five relations as subordinates and monarch, father and son, husband and wife, brothers and friends. These relations give rise to loyalty, filial piety, benevolence, generosity, faith and righteousness. Confucianism emphasizes that the interests of the group are higher than those of the individual. Mencius said that a gentleman should "take the business of the world as his own" and "take the public worry and concern as his own". That is to say, he should take world affairs as his responsibility. Obviously, social responsibility has always been placed ahead, and it also highlights making oneself better and safeguarding the overall interests at the expense of individual interests, to take national and ethnic interests as the top priority.

The Confucianism deserves special attention for its profound educational thought. The Confucian educational philosophy attaches great importance to classical humanistic education, to take gentleman as the model, take virtue over knowledge, take ideal saint's personality as the goal of education, highlight the significance of "studious" and self-initiative in the educational process, and focus on making people gradually become virtuous. Confucian educational thought is not only the cognition of education, but also contains the understanding of "human" in the whole classical era. Education in ancient China always emphasized persistent learning. The basic goal of Confucian educational thought is to cultivate people who value moral integrity and pursue noble personality.

2. The values of contemporary college students

2.1. To enhance patriotic awareness

Contemporary college students are trans-century youth growing up with China's rapid development. They witnessed the great achievements of the socialist reform and opening-up.

Great changes have taken place in our country. The growing strength of the country and the continuous improvement of living standards have increased college students' confidence in the future. Especially in 2008 and 2009, it was eventful for China.

In the past two years, they have experienced the tests of natural disasters such as snowstorms and earthquakes. They have also experienced fascinating historical moments such as the world-renowned Olympics grand ceremony, the seventh heaven flying, and the 60th anniversary of the founding of the People's Republic of China. Contemporary college students have shown a high degree of patriotic enthusiasm and become more positive and optimistic for the future. Although college students are also aware of the problems and shortcomings in the process of social development, most of them can do mature analysis and conduct exploration.

2.2. To enhance collective awareness

In the university campus, class, community, college students have been taught to be generous and broad-minded. Especially now, with the rapid development of social economy, college students have more opportunities to contact the society and participate in social activities. Cooperation has become one of the essential quality for college students, enabling them to realize more deeply that collective development is the prerequisite for realizing their own values.

2.3. To obtain stronger self-awareness

Self-dependence is one of evidence that college students begin to have self-awareness. Especially in the increasingly competitive environment, self-awareness gradually becomes clear. They yearn for and begin to face difficulties independently, face the society independently, solve problems independently, and no longer rely too much on their parents and teachers. In all kinds of conflicts, in dealing with all kinds of complicated problems, they began to become mature and capable.

In addition, they begin to re-examine in an all-round way and attach great importance to self-value.

2.4. To pursue specific ideals

Contemporary college students can generally set up realistic ideal pursuits. From planning for their own development to serving the society, they are paying more and more attention to concretizing their ideals and making them enforceable. In the pursuit of these specific ideals, they are more likely to realize their own value.

2.5. To change views on learning and employment

The employment pressure in today's society has led many college students to change their traditional learning mode from simple accumulation of knowledge to cultivation of their own abilities. Efforts should be made to improve knowledge and skills, improve comprehensive quality, and shape themselves into high-quality and compound talents to meet the needs of social development, which has become the learning objectives of contemporary college students. Therefore, many college students choose to enrich themselves, learn various kinds of knowledge and skills, and put them into practice, gradually forming the concept of lifelong learning. With the further improvement of the market economy system, the consciousness of contemporary college students to choose their own occupation has increased.

2.6. To conduct interpersonal communication

On the basis of the traditional interpersonal communication, with the further development of electronic communication and the Internet, the communication environment of contemporary college students has begun to take on new forms. The network supported by information communication is gradually changing the traditional way of interpersonal communication. Although the network has brought troubles to some college students, the convenience of information communication and the abundance of network resources are conducive to the formation new interpersonal relationships. To a certain extent, it broadens college students' knowledge and interpersonal skills and provides a certain basis for college students to enter society. Of course, college students are still in the stage where values are still not fully formed, and a few college

students still have biased values. However, we should still see the positive side of contemporary college students' values, giving them recognition, and making them confident in their growth and development. This is very important for universities.

The all-round development of students is of vital importance.

3. The educational significance of Confucian ideology to contemporary college students

Although Confucianism has not yet become a compulsory course in college campuses, it has more or less influenced college students. Moreover, more and more college students have chosen active acceptance instead of passive acceptance. Confucianism is taking part in the education of college students in a subtle way.

3.1. Ideological and moral education

The Confucian ideology and culture attaches great importance to people's moral character, self-cultivation and willpower. At the same time, it emphasizes the maintenance of social order through morality and propriety. It opposes the use of penalty and violence to manage society. It emphasizes the use of morality to serve people and opposes the use of force to oppress people. These all highlight the characteristics of the Confucianism that attaches special importance to moral civilization. The core of Confucianism is benevolence.

High principle and other moral principles are derived from "benevolence", the basic meaning of which is love. The Confucian emphasized benevolence which is not only reflected in the relationship between human beings and society, but also in the relationship between human beings and nature. Confucianism advocates to be kind, honest, brave and firm through self-cultivation. These thoughts have a positive effect on the moral education of contemporary college students. They can improve the numbness of a few college students towards others and society, arouse the awareness of caring for others and society, and urge college students to form a healthy and positive outlook on life.

3.2. To establish the correct values

In recent years, Chinese traditional culture has attracted more and more attention and has gradually become a powerful force in global multi-cultures. As the mainstream of Chinese traditional culture, Confucianism has been the theoretical basis for the formation of the general values of the Chinese nation for a long time, affecting the formation of people's thoughts and values. Contemporary college education can help college students set up correct values and become better through their own cultivation by learning and understanding the essence of Confucian culture in the context of the resurgence of traditional Chinese culture, especially Confucian culture.

3.3. To help college students correctly handle interpersonal relationships

The ability to communicate with others reflects a person's level of self-cultivation. The self-cultivation advocated by Confucianism also needs to be implemented in the relationships between people, between people and society, and between people and nature. Confucian advocates "courtesy" and "self-discipline" in dealing with interpersonal relationships, and realizes the harmony of interpersonal relationships through self-discipline, which is of great practical educational significance to contemporary college students.

Circumstances make them fall into interpersonal barriers. If the education of schools and society can effectively cultivate their tolerant mentality, tolerant mind and self-reflection, the growth of

college students will be greatly promoted.

3.4. To further enhance the sense of patriotism

Confucianism emphasizes that the interests of groups are higher than those of individuals. Group interests are public and individual interests are private. Therefore, it has always been the Chinese nation's heartfelt responsibility to care about state affairs and world affairs since ancient times. It has become an eternal concern for the country and the people. After the Han Dynasty, scholar-officials always emphasized "taking the public business as their own responsibility". Fan Zhongyan of the Northern Song Dynasty once said: "concern about the public concerns; worry about the public worries"; In the Ming Dynasty, Donglin Party members said that "family affairs, state affairs and everything in the world are of concern."

"Gu said:" For rise and fall, everyone is responsible." The concept of "the world" is the cultural and ideological root of Chinese scholar-officials who can regard the overall affairs of the country as their own duty. The in-depth understanding of patriotic spirit in Confucian ideology enables contemporary college students to fully understand the patriotic feelings of the ancients and further enhance their patriotic consciousness. In a word, we should carefully and thoroughly understand the essence of Confucianism, which can be inherited for thousands of years and preserved to this day, to take its essence and discard its dross. In addition to understanding the theoretical value of Confucian thought, college students should integrate it into real life, so as to cultivate their own body and mind, gradually improve themselves, and strive to serve the society better and realize their own values.

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