

The Focus and Mission of Philosophy Education in the Context of Sinicism Modernization

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Abstract: The focus and mission of philosophy education are determined by the dimension of modernity of philosophy itself and the dimension of the mutual construction relationship between philosophy and society in the process of modernization. The Sinicism modernization provides new opportunities for the development of philosophy education, but also puts forward new challenges to it. Based on the process of Chinese modernization, philosophy education should focus on “man” and shoulder the mission of philosophy education in promoting the free and all-round development of man. As a kind of “human” activity, philosophy education should take cultivating the overall quality and all-round development of human beings as its mission. Through deepening the understanding of the connotation of mission of philosophy education, on the basis of grasping the implication of the times contained in Sinicism modernization and analyzing the challenges faced by philosophy education, this paper explores the ways to realize the mission of philosophy education in the context of Sinicism modernization.

Keywords: Sinicism; In the context of modernization; Philosophy education

1. The Dimension of Modernity of Philosophy Education

Philosophy is the knowledge about “being” and understanding and grasping the world. As a kind of spiritual activity, philosophy reflects on “being” through human’s spiritual activity to raise and solve problems, and constantly interrogate themselves and constantly renew themselves, which is precisely the fundamental significance of the existence of philosophy. Philosophy, social development, and human development interact and influence each other. Philosophy education is the product of an era, the product of the spirit of The Times. The process of modernization in China provides opportunities for the development of philosophy education, but it also brings new challenges to it. China’s modernization is carried out on the basis of absorbing the experience of Western modernization and summarizing its own historical experience. However, due to the reasons of Chinese historical and cultural tradition and social ideology since modern times, the problems and difficulties encountered in the process of modernization are fundamentally different from those of Western modernization.

2. The Relationship between Philosophy Education and Modernization

Modernization is the inevitable trend of the development of modern society, and philosophy education is an important means to promote the development of society and the all-round development of human beings. In the process of world history, modernization is a constantly accelerating process, in which various civilizations have constantly gained new vitality and promoted their own development. Modernization is characterized by diversity, difference and openness, which determines that different civilizations are pursuing the perfection and progress of their own value systems in the process of modernization. Modernization is not a linear development process with a single dimension, but a multi-dimensional, multi-level and multifaceted three-dimensional structure. Modernization is not an eternal and absolute process, but a dynamic process of continuous transition and continuous development.

According to the experience of Western modernization, modernization is not a simple realization of industrialization or economic growth, but a complex system composed of multiple dimensions such as economic development, political change and social transition. Modernization includes not only material modernization, but also spiritual modernization. Therefore, in the process of modernization of socialism with Chinese characteristics, philosophy education should promote both material and spiritual modernization, as well as

spiritual and institutional modernization. In the context of rapid economic and social development and increasingly prominent social contradictions, we should seize opportunities, face challenges and continue to raise the level of development of socialism with Chinese characteristics. At the same time, strengthening the education and research on the theory of all-around development of human is one of the most effective ways for Chinese philosophy education to adapt to the changes of The Times and realize its own development and innovative development. Philosophy education cannot exist in isolation from modernity. It cannot be assumed that it does not need to develop in contemporary China just because it is an ideological system; It cannot be assumed that it should have value beyond the times just because it has distinct characteristics of the times; It cannot be assumed that it should give up on itself just because it is facing various challenges and difficulties in the present.

3. The Demands of the Times in the Context of Sinicization Modernization

Since the reform and opening up, with the acceleration of China's modernization, philosophy education is constantly adapting to the needs of modernization. By combining Marxist philosophy with Chinese reality, the focus and task of philosophy education have changed since the reform and opening up, and philosophy education has also undergone great changes. Since the new era, the Party Central Committee with Xi Jinping as the core has put forward a series of new ideas, new thoughts and new strategies in the process of governing the country to profoundly answer the questions of The Times, the people and the world in theory, and promote socialism with Chinese characteristics into a new era. The entry of socialism with Chinese characteristics into a new era has brought historic opportunities for philosophy education. At the same time, philosophy education also faces many challenges. Sinicization modernization is an unprecedented great cause and a great project that requires the participation of all the people. The successful exploration of the Sinicization modernization path has not only provided a new choice and example for the development of human society, but also contributed Chinese wisdom and Chinese solutions to the development of human society. In the process of promoting Sinicization modernization, philosophy education is constantly exploring its own mission.

Sinicization modernization means a modernization with huge population, a modernization with common prosperity for all the people, a modernization with harmony between material and spiritual civilization, a modernization with harmonious coexistence between man and nature, and a modernization that follows the path of peaceful development. As a great practical activity, Sinicization modernization has distinct Chinese characteristics, Chinese style. It surpasses the traditional thinking mode and development mode of the western modernization mode, which is the separation and antagonism between man and nature, man and society, man and himself. This modernization is the result of the concerted efforts of the Chinese people led by the Communist Party of China. On the new era and journey, Sinicization modernization provides a new development opportunity for philosophy education. How to play the role of philosophy education in the process of Sinicization modernization? How to realize the mission of philosophy education in promoting the all-round development of human beings? All these are the new challenges of Sinicization modernization to philosophy education.

4. The Challenges Faced by Philosophy Education

Firstly, as an important part of Sinicization modernization, the theoretical system of socialism with Chinese characteristics in the new era was proposed to provide a new opportunity for the development of philosophy education. Secondly, as an important content of Sinicization modernization, "people-centered" development thought embodies people-oriented concept. Thirdly, after the construction of socialism with Chinese characteristics entered a new era, the main contradiction in society has transformed into a contradiction between the growing needs of the people for a better life and unbalanced and insufficient development. Finally, China's economic and social development faces many risks and challenges under the influence of multiple factors, such as the "new normal" of economic development, the profound changes in the international environment and the global pandemic of COVID-19. How to solve these problems is a challenge that philosophical education must face directly, and these problems are about how to make philosophy education keep pace with the times and maintain its development in an innovative way, how to explore the internal mechanism of philosophy education to train people and improve the overall quality of philosophy education to train people.

5. Cultivating the Overall Quality and All-round Development of Human Beings

Under the grand background of Sinicization modernization, the focus and mission of philosophy education is to cultivate overall quality and all-round development of human beings. This concept is rooted in the Marxist concept about all round development of human beings, and emphasizes that education is not only the inculcation of knowledge and the training of skills, but also the shaping of individual's initiative in social relations and the perfection of personality. Philosophy education, as a core field that enlightens wisdom, edifies sentiment, and shapes values, plays a unique role in stimulating individuals' innovative spirit, critical thinking, and moral judgment through deep speculations and practical exploration.

In this process, philosophy education advocates “unity of knowing and doing” and emphasizes the deep integration of “learning” and “doing”. Although theoretical learning is the foundation, it is more critical to apply philosophical principles to real life and enable students to deepen their understanding of philosophical issues in “doing”, hone their ability to solve practical problems and enhance their social responsibility and civic literacy in moral practice through social practice, case studies, ethical reflection, and other means. This model of “learning by doing and learning by doing” aims to solve the problem of the disconnect between pure theory and practice, promote the transformation of knowledge into wisdom, and enable students to show the wisdom to flexibly and creatively solve problems when dealing with complex realistic challenges. As an important part of quality education, philosophy education aims to go beyond the simple accumulation of knowledge, and is committed to cultivating well-rounded talents with profound humanistic background, broad international view, noble moral sentiment, and outstanding innovation ability. It advocates to use philosophical speculation to inspire the construction of life outlook and world outlook, and guide students to hold on core values in the multi-cultural integration and form independent and rational value judgments.

6. Conclusion

With the development in depth of Sinicization modernization, philosophy education plays an increasingly prominent role in it. Starting from the dimension of modernity of philosophy education, this paper probes into the inner relation between philosophy education and modernization, as well as the demands of The Times carried by philosophy education under the special background of China. Through the analysis of the challenges faced by philosophy education at present, we realize more clearly that it is the inescapable mission of philosophy education to cultivate the overall quality and all-round development of human beings.

In this process, we should not only pay attention to the teaching of philosophical knowledge itself, but also pay attention to the cultivation of students’ critical thinking, innovation ability and humanistic care. Only in this way can philosophy education really play its unique role in the process of Sinicization modernization and contribute to the cultivation of modern talents with profound philosophical accomplishment generation after generation.

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