

Research on the Enlightenment of Confucius, Mencius and Xun's Theory of Human Nature to Ideological and Political Education in Colleges and Universities

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Abstract : The human nature theory of Confucius, Mencius and Xun, the representatives of Pre-Qin Confucianism, still plays an extremely important role in the ideological and political education of contemporary colleges and universities. Confucius's "similar in nature and far in practice" holds that human nature is similar, and the difference is formed due to the acquired reasons of behavior habits. Mencius put forward the theory of good nature, pointing out that "human nature is good", while Xunzi put forward the "theory of evil nature" on the contrary. Analyzing the background and practical value of the theory of human nature of the three Confucian representatives can provide enlightenment for the ideological and political education in contemporary colleges and universities.

Keywords : Confucius, Mencius and Xun; The Theory of Human Nature; Ideological and Political Education in Colleges and Universities

During Spring and Autumn Period, the society was in a stage of drastic change, the social environment was extremely unstable, and the problems of human nature were also exposed. Firstly, from a political point of view. The phenomenon of violating rites and rules among princes occurs from time to time, resulting in the "collapse of rites and bad music", which has a serious impact on the long-standing class concept and triggered the thinking of human nature. Secondly, from the economic point of view. The widening gap between the rich and the poor in class society has caused people's psychological imbalance. The "evil" emotions, motives and behaviors have gradually appeared, which has triggered the thinking of good and evil. Finally, from the cultural level. With the weakening of clan concept, the Confucian thought of "inner sage and outer king" of "self-cultivation, family harmony, governing the country and calming the world" has basically taken shape. Thinkers expect to turn the people with "benevolence" and govern the country with "benevolence", which are to judge the value of social phenomena from the perspective of human nature. In this case, moral education based on "benevolence" and in the form of "ceremony" is particularly important. At that time, many schools studied human nature, and Confucius, Mencius and Xun were the most representative of Confucianism.

Ideological culture is the reflection of economy and politics. The formation of ideological concepts is not only affected by the social environment, but also closely related to the educational background received by individuals, so is the emergence of the theory of human nature. Confucius' ancestors were aristocrats and were greatly influenced by Zhou rites. Mencius received strict education since childhood. The story of "Meng's mother moved three times" fully reflects the importance attached to Mencius' education. Mencius was influenced by Zi Simen, studied Confucius' Confucianism, understood the "four virtues theory" of benevolence, righteousness, courtesy and wisdom, and put forward the "theory of good nature" on the basis of Confucius's "similar nature". Xunzi studied in Jixia school when he was young. In the environment of a hundred schools of thought, he developed critical thinking and put forward the "theory of evil nature". An in-depth analysis of their theory of human nature is conducive to promoting the development of ideological and political education in colleges and universities.

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1. Analysis on the characteristics of Confucius, Mencius and Xun's theory of human nature

1.1 Confucius' thought of "similar in nature and far in practice"

Confucius put forward the viewpoint of "similar in nature and far in practice", pointing out that people's natural attributes are similar, but the difference between good and evil gradually increases through acquired learning and the influence of social environment. "Similar in nature" provides internal emotional and moral constraints, and "far in practice" is an important basis for political education, because there is little difference in human nature, which requires us to learn to distinguish and maintain from the good, but also stop and guide from the evil. Confucius' theory of human nature shows that people's character and thought can be shaped after the day, and excellent individuals can be cultivated through continuous learning, which provides a demonstration for the necessity of ideological and political education, so as to prevent people from values differences caused by complex external environment, resulting in unstable social factors.

1.2 Mencius' thought of "good nature"

Mencius put forward the theory of good nature on the basis of Confucius' theory of human nature, which divided human nature into two aspects: natural attribute and social attribute. First of all, he endowed the four hearts of "benevolence, righteousness, courtesy and wisdom" with the natural attribute of man, and called it "conscience". Such as compassion, shame, resignation, right and wrong, intolerance and so on, are the common nature of mankind. "Goodness" certainly exists in people's heart. At the same time, Mencius also put forward the "theory of external destruction", which holds that people's original heart may produce various negative emotions and psychology under the influence of social environment, resulting in some people gradually losing their "good" nature. Mencius's theory of good nature has laid the theoretical foundation of the theory of human nature on ethics and morality in China's history, and inspired us to constantly strengthen ideological and political education, so that people consciously adhere to the norms of morality and ethics, so as to abandon evil and follow the good.

1.3 Xunzi's thought of "evil nature"

After Mencius put forward the theory of good nature, Xunzi put forward the "theory of evil nature" through dialectical thinking, which deepened people's understanding of the theory of human nature in Pre-Qin Confucianism. First of all, Xunzi believes that human nature is evil. In the face of social unrest, people are acting for selfish desires, and the good in human nature is disguised by people themselves. People "do good" just to get away with punishment. In Xunzi's view, if human nature is good, the society is naturally harmonious and stable, and there is no need for strict rules to restrict it. But in fact, people often have immoral behavior, unhealthy social atmosphere and frequent unrest. Therefore, Xunzi put forward the viewpoint of "transforming nature into counterfeiting". He believes that the evil of human nature can be resolved through acquired learning, and learning can teach people to be good. Social etiquette and laws guide people to be good. Therefore, he puts forward the theory of human nature of "the unity of nature and counterfeiting". This enlightens us to constantly strengthen ideological and political education, let the etiquette and law system in line with social development constantly restrict people's bad behavior and teach people to be good.

2. Enlightenment of Confucius, Mencius and Xun's theory of human nature to ideological and political education in colleges and universities

Confucius, Mencius and Xun's moral education is based on the theory of human nature. Therefore, the theory of human nature, the theory of cultivation and the theory of politics constitute the complete theoretical system of Confucius, Mencius and Xun's interpretation of human nature. The theory has two obvious characteristics. One is the realization of individual social value. The pursuit of "self-cultivation, family governance and world peace" integrates the viewpoint of "family and world", and pays attention to affecting the whole from the individual, so as to promote the stability and harmony of the whole society, and requires the cultivation of moral concepts of social groups according to the needs of national development. Another point is that Confucius, Mencius and Xun saw the differences in people's moral norms. Only on this basis can we better shape the formation of personal values, which is of great significance to our current education.

Adhering to "building morality and cultivating people" is an important mission for the development of ideological and political education in colleges and universities. Absorbing the human nature theory of Confucius, Mencius and Xun, and strengthening the shaping and cultivation of acquired ideological and political education through the analysis of human nature will help to better carry out the ideological and political education in colleges and universities, shape the stable, mature and kind-hearted character of young people, and establish correct ideological concepts.

2.1 Giving full play to students' subjective initiative and combining theory with practice

Personal temperament can be shaped by the day after tomorrow. In the process of receiving education, we should give full play to students' subjective initiative and improve their quality. Ideological and political education also needs to pay attention to the learning of theoretical knowledge and the cultivation of self practice, and constantly innovate the content and mode of ideological and political education in colleges and universities. Teachers should pay attention to the transformation of roles, and strengthen communication with students, in order to guide students to give full play to their subjective initiative, consciously learn relevant theoretical knowledge of ideological and political education, and better complete practical tasks. At the same time, we should also pay attention to combining theory with practice, guide college students to apply what they have learned, and constantly carry out practical exploration, so as to cultivate practical ability, apply knowledge to real life, establish scientific ideas and complete the process of self-cultivation.

2.2 Paying attention to the impact of campus environment and creating a good campus atmosphere

Although the three Confucian sages of Confucius, Mencius and Xun had different specific views on human nature, they all realized that the environment had a profound impact on people. Influenced by the bad information on the Internet, the dissemination of bad decadent culture is not conducive to the ideological and political education in colleges and universities. Therefore, when carrying out ideological and political education, colleges and universities should pay attention to creating a good campus atmosphere, rationally analyze the relationship between people and the external environment according to the relationship between social existence and social consciousness, and dialectically look at the development of the situation. We should make full use of the school's resources and influence the students' ideological development by creating a good style of study. At the same time, teachers should correctly guide students, help students give full play to their subjective initiative, and consciously resist the influence of negative factors, in order to jointly create a harmonious campus environment.

2.3 Strengthening binding force and paying attention to both morality and law

The need for ideological and moral education is mentioned in the theory of human nature of Confucius, Mencius and Xun. In his "theory of evil nature", Xunzi talked about the role of external binding force, and put forward "changing nature into counterfeiting" and "the unity of nature and counterfeiting". He believes that if only relying on moral education cannot maintain social stability. We need to pay attention to the construction of etiquette and laws, and use punishment to restrict individual behavior. Therefore, when carrying out ideological and political education, colleges and universities should pay attention to the cultivation of students' legal consciousness, strengthen legal education, and pay attention to moral education, work together to establish students' etiquette and law consciousness and build students' good code of conduct.

3. Conclusion

In constantly exploring the contemporary value history of traditional culture, we should strengthen the thinking and research on the Confucian theory of human nature in the pre-Qin period, select the essence part, and combine modern social development to play its role. It will further promote the ideological and political education in colleges and universities, help to uphold "moral virtue and cultivate people", in order to improve the ideological and moral accomplishment of college students, and promote social stability and harmony.

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