

The Core of Establishing the Scientific View on Children

Regarding Children as Independent Individual*

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Abstract—The view on children means how the society to regard and treat children. The view on children that adults, especially parents or teachers hold, has a very important impact on children's rights, development, education and childhood life. There are many common views on children in society, for example: children are the private property of parents; children are born as a "white board"; children are "little adults"; children are "flowers and trees"; children are the hope of families, etc., but these views on children are not scientific enough. The reason why there are so many unscientific views on children in the society is as follows: parents lack scientific ideas on childcare; parents have traditional ideas; parents have great pressure on work and life, and whether the relationship between husband and wife is harmonious. In order to help parents to set up a scientific outlook on children, it is necessary to carry out certain training. However, the core of setting up a scientific outlook on children is to "treat children as independent individuals". The so-called "treating children as independent individuals" means to respect children, follow the laws of children's physiological development, and recognize and protect children's rights. Only when adults have achieved the goal of "treating children as independent individuals", can they truly establish a scientific outlook on children and truly promote the growth and development of children.

Keywords—*scientific view on children; treating children as independent individuals; education*

I. INTRODUCTION

Are children the crystallization of parent' love, the bond of family, or the scaled-down version of adults? Are children white boards that can be daubed by adults, or flowers and trees that have their own growth patterns? Are the children the hope of the family or the future of the country? How does a country or society to treat children will directly affect children's physical and mental health development, and then, further make a difference for a country's population quality and future. How to regard and treat children is the so-called view on children. This is a concept that will act on the growth of a child at least and work for the development of

the country, even the future of mankind at most. So, how to establish a scientific view on children? When finding the core of "treating children as independent individuals", twice the result with half the effort can be yielded.

II. THE SKETCH OF VIEW ON CHILDREN AND THE SIGNIFICANCE OF ESTABLISHING THE VIEW

The so-called view on children refers that how does the society look upon children, which involves children's characteristics, rights and status, the significance of childhood and the relationship between education and children's development. People's views on children will have an important impact on children, not only on their education and growth, but also on their birth, survival and health. Children are the masters of the future world. The birth, survival and development of children directly affect the quality of population and the future development of human beings. It can be said that the healthy growth of children is related to the future and destiny of the country and even the development and stability of the world. So, it's indispensable for governments and societies to strive to make guarantee and development. And the realization of all these will be influenced by the view on children of the society (especially the adults and educators in the society). Only when the adults in the society have established a scientific view on children, can they respect children, follow children's own laws of physiological development, recognize and protect children's rights, and promote their better development.

III. ANALYSIS OF COMMON VIEWS ON CHILDREN AND THE CAUSES OF FORMATION

A. Common Views on Children in Society

1) *Children are the private property of their parents:* This is the most common view on children. The child is the crystallization of parents' love, inheriting the genes of both parents. It comes from the mother and is taken care of and raised by the parents and other family members. Because parents are the guardians of the child, the child is often considered to be owned by the parents and the private property of the parents. Parents who hold this view on

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children will take it for granted that they have the right to dominate and control their children.

2) *Children are born as "white board"*: This view on children is also very common, and even many teachers hold this view. This view on children thinks that children are born as a white board and a piece of white paper, without any ability and foundation, so they can be filled with all kinds of knowledge or experience by adults, and can be arbitrarily shaped. Under the control of this view on children, parents or teachers tend to ignore their children's own abilities and talents, instead of cultivating and shaping children according to their own wishes, regardless of children's subjective initiative absolutely.

3) *Children are "little big man"*: This view on children is time-honored. Up to now, there are still some people who regard it as truth. According to this kind of view, children are named as reduced adults. Apart from height and weight, there is no difference between children and adults. People who hold this view often ignore the physiological development characteristics of children, and they just treat children as small-sized adults, so, they tend to require children with adult standards, and even consciously train children to imitate adult behavior. In this case, it is easy for children to lose their innocence too early.

4) *Children are "plants and trees"*: This view on children has been so popular, and even has been the consensus of everyone. It is well known that teachers are called "Gardeners", which is closely related to this view on children. This view recognizes that children are independent individuals, having their own rights, ideas and growth rules. Adults, especially educators, should prune the branches and leaves of plants and trees like "Gardeners" on the premise of following the laws of children's development. People who hold this view, relatively speaking, respect the law and personality of children. However, they tend to ignore subjective initiative of kids themselves.

5) *Children are the hope of families*: This view on children is also universal. For many families, when they raise their children, they hope that their children will stand out and bring honor to the family. This means that children bear the expectation of parents and the mission of family. People who hold this view tend to focus on family resources to invest in their children, but at the same time, they also have high requirements, high standards and high expectations for their children. In response, their children will generally endure relatively great ideological pressure.

B. Analysis of Causes

The reasons why there are still many unscientific views on children in the society are as follows:

1) *Parents lack scientific idea of childcare*: For many parents, there is no any relevant study or training before they getting married and having children, which means they have no prepare to participate in the growth of a new life. Many people think that as long as the couple is legal and

healthy, they can be parents and have the next generation. They don't know if they want to be a qualified parent, it is very important and necessary to learn the way of getting along between husband and wife, the management of family, and the knowledge and skills of parenting. Based on the theory of "theory guiding practice", if there is no scientific idea, there must be deviation in behavior. For many parents, they have no scientific concept, and they just support kids under the guidance of the unscientific view, making the unscientific view on children prevailing. What worse is that most people do not take it seriously.

2) *The influence of traditional ideas*: Many people don't agree with their parents' or grandparents' education methods. They complain a lot about their parents' or grandparents' education methods and even hold a grudge. But when they became a parent, because they didn't have any learning or training to raise my children, they tend to continue parents' or grandparents' education methods blindly, and also continue their parents' or even grandparents' views on children invisibly. China is a country that attaches great importance to tradition and inheritance. The traditional education concept, including the traditional view on children, has a great influence on the younger generation. On the one hand, many parents are lazy and unwilling to learn and change traditional practices, which is the most convenient way for them (such as long-term wearing crotch pants for infants); on the other hand, Chinese parenting is characterized by a large proportion of cross generation education. In the process of raising children, grandparents will have a high degree of participation, so that the traditional concept is directly reflected in this process, and the parents' view on children is unconsciously influenced by the grandparents of children.

3) *Parents are heavily stressed in work and life*: With the rapid pace of life in modern society and the running of the two children policy, the cost of raising children is higher. Both parents have to work to bear the high cost of raising and educating children. Parents' work and life pressure are relatively large. Under the pressure, it will be easy for parent to accumulate negative emotions, and many parents will vent their bad emotions in the family. Some parents used to hold a more scientific view on children, respect their children as much as possible, and follow the laws of children's physiological and psychological development when raising their children. However, under the heavy pressure of life, it is often difficult to adhere to it, losing their temper, and gradually slide into the mud of unscientific view on children, for example "children are their private property" or "children are little adults".

4) *Whether the relationship between husband and wife is harmonious affects view on children*: Family is an important place for children to grow up and parents are the first teachers of children. Whether family environment good or not depends on the relationship of the couple. If there is a good relationship between husband and wife, and warm and

harmonious family environment, it is easy for the couple to influence each other. Then, democratic and harmonious parents are also easy to form a scientific view on children; bad relationship between husband and wife, apathy of family atmosphere, frequent quarrels will make it difficult to have a good interaction between husband and wife. If no communication or bad communication, husband and wife will form mostly negative emotions. Then, they often regard children as their own life or indulgence accompanied by holding the view of "children are their private property" or "children are little adults."

IV. THE CORE OF SETTING UP A SCIENTIFIC VIEW ON CHILDREN: TREATING CHILDREN AS INDEPENDENT INDIVIDUALS

If parents want to set up a scientific view on children, the core for them is to treat children as independent individuals. The so-called "treating children as independent individuals" refers to not treating children as pets and as little adults. It is important to pay attention to children's existence, but not regard children as the core and treasure of the whole family. Instead, children should be regarded as independent individuals with ability, thinking, characteristics and rights, as well as people with equal life and subjective initiative with adults. Its meaning has the following three aspects:

A. *Treating Children as Independent Individuals and Respecting Children Naturally*

Many parents think that since they conceive and raise their children, it is natural for them to regard children as their own private property, which means that they have absolute right of possession and control over their kids, and require kids to obey themselves completely, otherwise the kids will be defined to be disobedience, ignorance and filial. These parents tend to make little or no consideration of the child's wishes but just in line with the original intention of "everything I do is for the sake of the child". Under the high control of parents, children can't resist and disobey. They can only be good children with parents' satisfaction. Under the arrangement of this view on children, there is no respect for children. In other words, adults do not regard children as "independent individuals". Imagining when an adult faces another stranger, will he or she decide everything for others regardless of his or her ideas and opinions? Will he or she not allow others to express their ideas and opinions, blindly ask others to obey themselves? Will they lose temper with a stranger because the one doesn't do what he/she want? Of course not, because he/she is very clear that the other is an "individual" independent of he/she, so she/she will show due respect. Now, please think again that why can adults, especially parents, be rude to their children and have a high degree of control? Because they think children are their own. In this case, they think it's safe to lose temper with their children, and it's natural to discipline their children. Do these adults treat children as "independent individual" and give them due respect? Of course it is not. Although many parents say that they love their children very much, it is one of the cores to establish a scientific view on children that really "treat children as independent individuals" from the bottom

of their hearts and give children respect by regarding them as "independent individuals".

B. *Treating Children as Independent Individuals and Naturally Follow the Law of Children's Physiological and Psychological Development*

Nowadays, the fast-paced and competitive society makes many people not only anxious about themselves, but also anxious about their children. There are many adults who believe that they have no obvious competitive advantage in society, so they put all their hopes and bets on their children. They think that children are little adults and white boards. As long as adults are willing to invest, they can shape children into the best of their peers, and the children can stand out in the fierce competition. So many families will make investment in children at all costs, aiming to spoil them by excessive force with high pressure and high control. If the parents "treat children as independent individuals" and respect children, will they turn a blind eye to the unique laws of children's physiological and psychological development, and blindly promote ripening according to their own will? If adults blindly force children to grow in an excessive speed, how many children will have psychological shadow and their bodies and psychology will be greatly damaged? How many children will have a variety of physiological and psychological obstacles or diseases? It is wise for adults, especially parents, to "treat children as independent adults", follow the laws of children's physiological and psychological development, actively provide good environment and conditions for children's growth, reasonably guide and promote children's all-round and harmonious development, so as to avoid unexpected events. Therefore, following the law of children's physiological and psychological development and treating children as independent individuals is another core of establishing a scientific view on children.

C. *Treating Children as Independent Individuals and Naturally Recognizing and Protecting Their Rights*

As soon as a child is born, he has many basic human rights, such as nationality right, name right, survival right, health right, development right, game right, education right, security right, portrait right, reputation right, honor right, privacy right, freedom right, etc. Even if the baby is very young and has no many abilities, it has all the rights of natural person. How many adults do not know at all or neglect these rights of children? If they do not know or do not recognize the rights of children, how can they truly respect and protect the rights of children, and truly treat children as independent individuals? Even for some fetuses, their right to life and birth, are deprived arbitrarily. Who treats them as "independent individuals"? Therefore, another core of establishing a scientific view on children is to know and recognize children's rights followed by actively protecting children's rights, which is the right interpretation of respecting children and treating children as independent individuals.

V. CONCLUSION

To sum up, it is advisable for adults, especially parents to truly treat children as independent individuals, which demands adults to respect children, follow the laws of children's physiological development, recognize and protect children's rights and establish a scientific view on children. Only by so doing, children can be nurtured scientifically and their better and happier development can be realized. Then, it is possible to improve the population quality of the country and lay a good foundation for human future.

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