

On the Necessity and Rationality of Teachers' Authority

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Abstract. Teachers' authority has an important influence on education. It is necessary and rational. Authority is a universal phenomenon in human being's life. Teacher's authority plays an important role in education and teaching. Teacher's authority is the need of students' growth and the development of teachers.

Authority is a Universal Phenomenon in Human Being's Life

If we want to clear the necessity of the teachers' authority, at first we must know the correlation between authority and people's life. In the first place, authority is a basic phenomenon of human being's behaviours from the perspective of the social background. Authority exists in many fields, such as society, politics, economy, culture, religion and so on. In the process of the evolution of capitalist society, Engels described that decentralized operations were replaced by huge factory machines, he discussed that jointed activities is also the complicated work which depended on each other is replacing the personal independent activities. Jointed activity is organized together which need the authority to perform.[1] Andreas bear says, "without authority, the group life, common spirit, national education, military order, national and utility law will be impossible.... people could not live in the world isolated, and there will be a connecting group in the organization, which is the authority that people confirmed.... People live in the world which include a variety of authority, authority is indispensable just like the air people breathe.[2] " There is authority of the parents in the family; there is informal authority in small groups; there is leadership's authority in the organization of the army and the factory; there is political authority in the national organizations or international organizations and so on. It is no doubt that the authority exists all around the word.

Secondly, the authority is a necessity for social life going on consequently. Authority is necessary whatever in primitive society or in highly socialized society. In primitive society, patriarch is the authority which plays a vital role in maintaining the unity and survival of a tribe. Nowadays, the organized and collectivized social life needs more authority to play the role of controlling, managing and coordinating. The society needs an orderly, peaceful and fair way, authority is one of the most important ways which satisfy the needs of the society. Engels studies historical development process of the authority from the perspectives of historical materialism and dialectical materialism, he reveals the connotation of the authority from the objective necessity of the social order. "Order refers to a basic category of the order social life. The order means that the society's controllability and the stability of social life, the interaction of people's behaviours, and the predictable factors existing in the social life. Order is a factor of society, a certain order needs common authority to maintain, order cannot without authority. Wherever there is order we can always find some forms of authority to maintain order, such as emirates, parents, the emperors, god, the kings,

the governments, the parliaments, laws, etc. which are used to as the public authority to maintain the order in history." [3] Engels inspected the evolutionary history of the authority, he expounded the importance of the authority in maintaining the unity and the role of social production and life from the angle of the organization and management of social activities. "Authority, here refers to imposing the others' will on us; on the other hand, obeying is the precondition of authority. Since both ways are not quite good, and the relationship it showed made the one which obeyed felt embarrassed, so there is a question: Can we don't have this relationship? Whether can we create another social system to make authority became meaningless and eliminate it under the existing condition in the modern society? We just look at the economic relationship which mainly are the industrial and agricultural relations that are the basic of modern bourgeois society, we will find that they have the trend that jointed activities of the people is replacing the various scattered activities more and more severely." [4] It is visible that authority is absolutely essential to guarantee the order.

Since the authority is a universal phenomenon in human life, the education is social activities which cultivate people as planned and purposefully, it must has the existence of the authority. So are there any reasons to deny the authority of the internal school, even cancel the authority? Instead, all the activities in the school have a close contact with teacher's authority.

Teacher's Authority is the Need of Education and Teaching

Education is a social practice of cultivating people; its normal running needs certain social norms and order. It can guide and restrain students through the norms and order of education so as to ensure the orderly conduction of education and teaching activities. Teacher's authority has a positive significance in maintaining the order of school education and teaching, as well as ensuring the normal teaching. Because the teacher's authority is an important means which can stay school's normal order. Teaching order is an order which is maintained by teachers and students in the process of education and teaching that both teachers and students want to achieve the expected teaching goal. It is formed in the process of the mutual construction, deeply interchange and effective cooperation between teachers and students. In the process of construction of deeply interchange between teachers and students, the teacher plays a positive guiding role all the time. Although good order is the expectation of school and teachers in the teaching activities. In general, order always means positive and harmonious, but it cannot avoid the existed disorder and negative things in the really educational world, such as students' violating discipline and exceeding bounds in the teaching program, the conflict between teachers and students, etc., teacher's authority can show its great power more obviously at the time. Teachers let students admire them because of their profound knowledge, they influence students with their noble morality, make students appreciate them with their unique charm. Teachers make the students admit their authority, admire their ability, agree their words, obey their demands, then form a harmonious order through the positive guidance. It is the influence of authority, we can establish a positive good order, ensure the normal development of the education and teaching process. Some scholars think that although the social order's cornerstone is "power" which take the force as its core, but "authority" which is based on the authority of the ideology, leadership and influence can drive more people's beliefs, make people obedient, make order obtain stable and permanent. For this point of view, the force of teachers' authority surpasses power system, mandatory power etc., and the teachers' authority's influence is wider and

more profound. For this regard, the force of teachers' authority may surpasses power system and mandatory power and influence students profoundly.

In addition, a distinctive feature of the school education activities is the pursuit of efficiency. Pursuing efficiency based on grasping the children's knowledge, we still pursue efficiency after the socialization of children morality, value and behaviour. In order to ensure the efficiency, it is necessary to constitute a form of controlled social organization which can make organization and activities serialized. So far, Class Teaching is recognized as one of the most efficient forms of organization. In class, the teacher's position and age, knowledge, experience, and the authority which education gives, all the advantages of these aspects, decided that the teacher is a leader in the class who perform the work of student organization, coordination and management. The teacher's leadership is to ensure the normal education and teaching as well as promote the healthy growth of the students. The teacher's authority and influence are very important factors which decide whether a teacher can successfully implement the leadership and management in the class. Only a teacher has authority, can he win the respect and support of students, and then students can comply with the various disciplines consciously and voluntarily, students can carry out the teacher's good intentions and desire, students can act as teacher's orders. Without the students' confirmation, education and teaching activities are some kinds of external formed orderly activities. The teaching process is the true teaching activities which are convinced and recognized by students.

Teacher's Authority is the Need of Students' Growth

Education, to a certain extent, can be understood as that which is process of transiting material civilization and spiritual civilization achievements that are built up by human into cultural psychological quality of a new generation with the aid of imparting knowledge, and cultivate educatees try to meet the requirements of social behavior patterns through the operation and training.[5] In the process of education, teachers guide students actively, promote the students growth healthily and grow up to be a social person. The teachers can play the role of guiding students better who have the authority. Durkheim specifically discussed the importance of the teacher's authority in the process of the guidance of educational value. He pointed out that the purpose of education is to make the new birth who cannot adapt to the social life from the individual became to a new social person. In order to restrain the original selfishness, children should obey a higher purpose and must be able to restrain themselves. As a result, children need to have a sense of obligation. Children can know obligation and the ways of obligation but only through their teachers or parents, their teachers or parents' explaining, their teachers or parents' words and actions. Obligation has become compulsory based on the authority of the educators to children.[6]

Students are one of the basic elements of educational activities, and also the most basic object of educational activities. From the point view of sociology, the meaning of the student often shows the lack and gap of the culture. Compared to adults, students are in the phase of learning social culture and all kinds of norms, the purpose of learning is to shorten the gap between themselves and the social culture, make them become the formal member of the society. From this perspective, we can see that there is a gap between students and adults. The idea that people always emphasize the equality between teachers and students, this point can be true but only from the viewpoint of equality of personality. In other aspects, as a result of imperfect and

incomplete of students' knowledge level, cognitive, physical and mental development, there is a unequivalence of mature teachers and relatively immature students between the adults and the students. Even in the age of information, maybe the students possess more information and knowledge in some ways or some conditions, but they are still incomplete in terms of the structure of knowledge and ability which shows no maturity. In many ways, the students are inclined to teachers as trees and flowers trend to sunshine because of the characteristics of students. Students have the psychology of learning from teachers.[7] To some extent, students are willing to emulate and depend on teachers. The function of the teachers is guiding and helping students on behalf of society through education and training so as to ensure the healthy growth of students. The more authoritative teachers influence students, the more significant the education effect is. Because "the mind of the students succumb to the authority, the authority can restrain their activities which beyond normal activities, thus it's helpful to end a tendency of the forming of evil will." [8]

Teacher's Authority is the Need of the Development of Teachers

To a certain extent, the level of the teacher's authority represents the standard of teacher's achievement. The high teacher's authority influence students more, and the education effect is also better. To some extent, students and parents' approval of teacher's authority also represent their identity of the teachers' roles.

"Role" refers to the individual's status in certain social relations and the total of behaviour rules and behaviour patterns. Role stipulates the specific scope, the rights, obligations and norms of one's activities which are adapted to the people's status. It is behaviour expectations for a person who are in a certain position in the society. Whether a certain role can be success largely depends on that if it can meet people's requirements and desires.[9] Teachers play multiple roles such as the value guidance, study guidance, class leader, it is extremely important for the teachers that whether these roles are identified by the society. Because most of the teachers are concerned about their position and influence among the students, the parents, the colleagues and the society. For teachers, strong role recognition is the recognition of their identity, the fair evaluation of the teachers from society, respect and trust, these are the highest reward for their work, is also one of the highest honor in this profession. Authoritative teachers are bound to get everyone's role identity. The sense of achievement from the identity also urges teachers to be stricter with them, try to improve themselves in education activities, perfect themselves. The process of constantly improving themselves is also the process of increasing teacher's authority. If teachers were short of authority or had no authority in the student's eyes because of various reasons, the teachers should constantly reflect and summarize themselves based on others' evaluation. They should adjust themselves constantly from the aspects of knowledge, skills, professional ethics, personality, etc..They should re-examine themselves, motivate themselves to forge ahead constantly, continue to improve themselves, thus they can establish their own authority. The process of setting up the authority is also the process of their own improvement.

As a consequence, students growing constantly under the teacher's guidance and the influence of teacher's authority. At the same time, the students' approval of teacher's authority motivate teachers to explore and enterprise continuously. The process of the constantly growth of the students is the process of the improvement of teacher's authority, also the process of construction of teacher's self-value and the implementation of meaning of teacher's life.

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