

# The Rationality and Outlet of Education in Modern Private Schools

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**Abstract**—At present, in those big cities like Shanghai, Shenzhen, Beijing and other places, the modern private school teaching mode has aroused widespread concern in the society. On the one hand, it is reasonable to carry forward the Chinese traditional culture, promote the distribution of educational resources and the equity of education. On the other hand, some modern private schools have not yet obtained the corresponding qualifications, and their education qualities are uneven, and their legitimacy may be questionable. This paper analyzes the modern private schools such as Meng Mu school, Juzhai private school, Lu Ming School and other modern private schools by means of investigation, the literature study and so on, explores the rationality of their existences under the current education background, and points out that the modern private schools can adapt to the current educational situation and contribute to the education cause of our country as long as they make use of the positive guidance of the government and the continuous self-improvements.

**Keywords**— *Modern private school; Chinese traditional culture; rationality; Legitimacy*

## I. INTRODUCTION OF MODERN PRIVATE SCHOOL

### A. The origin and present situation of modern private school

In September 2004, the first modern private school "Meng Mu School" appeared in Shanghai. After that, similar institutions appeared, including Suzhou's Chrysanthemum private school, the Lu Ming School in Shenzhen, the six arts private school in Guangzhou, and so on.

Traditional private schools were originally collectively referred to as private schools and library, including private schools, special schools, scattered houses, etc. [1] mainly engaged in primary school education. The modern private school generally refers to the traditional private school running mode, and teaches the contents of Sinology to children. The modern private school takes the traditional private school running mode as a template, follows the majority of traditional private school teaching content, and adopts individual teaching methods.

Although this kind of organization has been questioned in the legality, even "Meng Mu School" has been identified by the Shanghai Municipal Education Commission as illegal school, but the existence of the modern private school has its own advantages, which is worth the reflection of the school

education. The emergence and rise of the modern private school, to some extent, reacts to the dissatisfaction of the parents and the social personages to the school education and the need to explore the real purpose of the primary and secondary education.

### B. Teaching of modern private school

In terms of teaching content, most modern private schools are different in teaching content, but most of them are mainly reading classics and other traditional culture studies. The content of teaching basically follows the educational content of traditional private schools.

Taking the MengMu School in Shanghai as an example, the education content mainly involves Chinese classic classics, such as the book of changes, the Analects of Confucius, the four books and five classics, and so on. Tai Chi is the main form of self-cultivation; music class is mainly the learning of classical instruments. [2]

In the form of teaching organization, it basically follows the way of traditional private schools and adopts individual teaching methods. The number of students in modern private schools is very small, generally not more than ten classes per class, and even the number of students in modern private schools is only five or six. Teachers take individual counselling methods to promote students' learning.

In terms of teaching methods, modern private schools teach students in accordance with their aptitude and emphasize their concern for students' individuality. The class teaching system of school education often ignores the development of students' personality, which makes many parents discourage school education and ultimately chooses the modern private school.

Modern private schools are divided into two types: full-time and extracurricular. Most of the full-time private schools take the way of boarding, and there are strict regulations for the students' work and rest; the extracurricular time is usually used by the modern private school after class to teach students at weekends or in the winter holidays and summer holidays.

### *C. The organization form of modern private school*

The organizational form of modern private schools generally includes enterprise type and family type.

The essence of the enterprise type modern private school is an enterprise. The daily behavior of the school is essentially a kind of management behavior because the modern private school is the investor and operator and the students or the parents are the consumers.

Family type private schools are usually run by the founders at home, and they recruit fewer students of scale, similar to family education.

## II. THE RATIONALITY OF THE EXISTENCE OF MODERN PRIVATE SCHOOL EDUCATION

### *A. Carrying forward Traditional Chinese culture*

Carrying forward traditional culture is of great significance in today's globalization. In many important speeches of general secretary Xi Jinping, it is clearly pointed out that the traditional culture should be carried forward, and the Ministry of education has also issued the "guidelines for the improvement of Chinese traditional culture and education".

However, at present, in many areas of our country, there is a tendency to westernized, and in the hearts of many citizens, there will be a lack of self-identification. To a large extent, these are related to the lack of traditional culture in school education. Modern private schools can no doubt make up for the lack of education in this area and cultivate relevant talents.

First of all, modern private schools usually focus on reading classics, learning traditional classics. Such as Shanghai Meng Mu School, adhering to the purpose of "reading classics and respecting Confucius and Mencius", learning the book of changes, disciple rules, Analects, four books and five classics. Suzhou Ju Zhai private school, based on the principles of morality, literature, language and conduct, offers courses such as Mongolian learning, classics learning, verse writing and so on. [3] The modern college students, although the contents of the school education will also involve traditional literature, their traditional cultural accomplishment is not satisfactory.

Secondly, modern private schools pay much attention to traditional etiquette learning. Although traditional etiquette such as kneeling worship is regarded as a cultural dregs, there are still some etiquette worthy of reservations and learning. Confucius stressed that "no etiquette, no standing", "no respect, no listening, no ceremony, no words, no action." In the Song Dynasty, Zhu Xi's "notes on the children" and the "Tong Zili" of the Ming Dynasty Tu Xiyong, etc. have important provisions on clothes, washing, sweeping, walking, speech, audio-visual, diet and so on. As a country of ceremonies, school education is nearly blank in traditional etiquette.

Finally, the modern private school has inherited the traditional virtues of the Chinese nation to a certain extent. Compared with school education, modern private schools do not have the pressure of exam oriented education. For example, the study of disciple rules in modern private schools emphasizes the importance of respecting teachers, and the study of Confucian classics emphasizes filial piety, respect for

teachers, integrity and benevolence. The ideological and political courses in school education will also be involved, but the modern private school has advantages in transforming moral cognition into moral behavior.

### *B. Giving full play to the advantages of private schools*

Aside from the legality of modern private schools, modern private schools are ultimately an attempt of private education. If directed, it will play an important role in our current education.

Huang Teng, the representative of the National People's Congress and President of the Xi'an External affairs Institute, said: "the root cause of the school selection heat is insufficient quality education resources. The state should vigorously develop private education, and let private education meet the needs of the people to diversify the education, and can truly guarantee the fair development of education." [4]

First of all, in some areas, public kindergartens at compulsory education stage or preschool stage are obviously uneven in distribution. The difficulty of admission to kindergartens or primary schools has plagued many parents. Therefore, some parents have taken another way to send their children to modern private schools for education.

Secondly, modern private schools as private education play an important role in giving play to educational equity. Private education can meet the needs of the masses for educational diversification and promote educational equity.

Finally, as a private education, modern private schools can promote the overall quality of education through market competition mechanism.

### *C. Providing reference for educational reform*

The attempt and exploration of modern private schools as private education, to a certain extent, reflects the need for reform in the field of basic education.

First, there is a tendency to focus on exam oriented education and quality education in the field of basic education. Under the mode of examination oriented education, school education, especially in basic education, tends to pursue one-stop pursuit rate instead of students' quality education. Although in the course of curriculum, there are music, art, labor skills, and so on, but the results are often the education departments, school perfunctory, parents or students do not appreciate. As a result, students with high scores and low energy emerge in an endless stream.

In modern private schools, such as the private school of Chrysanthemum in Suzhou, according to the teaching principles of German, Chinese, language and practice, courses such as Mongolian, Confucian classics, verse and so on are offered, not only imparting students' knowledge, but also paying attention to the education of the students. In addition, some modern private schools offer courses such as tea ceremony, calligraphy and painting to cultivate students' aesthetics, set up labor courses, and cultivate students' labor ability.

These contents have certain identity with the quality education in the country. If they are guided, they will surely play an important role in educational reform.

Second, there is a phenomenon of emphasizing education and neglecting literature in school education. In the structure of secondary school teachers, there are often more science teachers and less liberal arts teachers. In the class structure, there are often more science classes and less liberal arts classes. Most of the outstanding students are advised by teachers and parents to study science, and once they choose liberal arts, teachers and parents may sigh. But outside the school, the Olympiad competition, the physical competition, and so on, also select the high quality students in science, and related to the school education, giving them a greater advantage in school education.

But liberal arts students are often ignored. And any society wants to develop, cannot be missing literature, philosophy, history, education and other related disciplines. Comparatively speaking, modern private school education can make up for the lack of Chinese talents in school education.

Third, there is a problem of neglecting personality development in school education. On the one hand, in many regions, there is still a shortage of educational resources. Under the condition of large class teaching in class teaching system, teachers are difficult to teach students in accordance with their aptitude, and the phenomenon of "heavy middle and light two heads" is difficult for teachers to teach students in accordance with their aptitude. The most important students in a class are often the top grades. Students who are born behind and those who are backward in their studies do not receive much attention as most ordinary students. In modern private schools, the individual teaching system of small class teaching focuses on students' differences and teaching students in accordance with their aptitude. For example, Beijing Xiang Tang Confucius school, teachers make different learning strategies according to the students' different learning background, learning methods and so on. In mathematics learning, the methods of stopping, continuing, reading classics and reading texts are used in mathematics study. On the other hand, in the compulsory education stage, especially in the primary school stage, the students' self-care ability is poor and the personality development is not mature. In addition, the teachers should guide the students' learning and care for them in their life. Because of the large number of teachers, school education can not be exhaustive, and the private education of modern private schools has obvious advantages.

#### *D. Demand for educational diversification*

At present, there are still disputes about the connotation of educational diversification. It is generally believed that educational diversification mainly refers to the diversification of training objectives, diversification of management patterns, diversity of educational content and diversification of evaluation methods. Hua Defu, an pedagogic Huang Xiaoxing, thinks, "the diversity of education is not only limited to educational methods and means of education, but more important is to practice all kinds of advanced educational theories, schools, educational models and education management schools at the same time." [5]

In the final analysis, modern private schools play an important role in the diversified development of education in China.

First of all, modern private schools reflect the diversity of training objectives. Under the training goal of the traditional school education, the school simply attaches importance to the examination oriented education, neglects the quality education of the students, and the students accept the knowledge passively, which leads to the training of the "examination machine". In the training goal of modern private schools, taking Suzhou's Chrysanthemum private school as an example, we first emphasize the cultivation of students' morality in accordance with the order of morality, culture, language and practice.

Secondly, modern private schools reflect the diversity of educational contents. Such as the Mencius hall in Shanghai, the classical Chinese classics mainly study the book of changes, the Analects of Confucius, the four books and the five classics, and so on. The foreign language learning is mainly the classics of foreign classics; the sports lessons are mainly of yoga, Tai Chi and the like, and the music class is mainly a classical musical instrument. The contents of other modern private schools include tea ceremony, painting, calligraphy and so on. These contents are not taken seriously in school education. The diversification of modern private schools in educational content is particularly important for the transmission of classical culture.

Thirdly, modern private schools reflect the diversity of evaluation methods. Education reform has repeatedly stressed the need to focus on the evaluation of the selection function to promote the development of students and improve the level of teaching. Modern private schools generally adopt diversified evaluation methods, emphasizing the function of evaluation to promote students' development and so on.

### III. DISADVANTAGES OF MODERN PRIVATE SCHOOL EDUCATION

#### A. *Suspected illegal running of school*

In September 2006, the Shanghai education administration stopped the "Meng Mu School" modern private school on suspicion of running a school illegally.

There has been a lot of controversy in the mode of running the school of modern private schools. Part of the support view holds that the modern private school has carried forward the traditional culture, embodies the diversity of education, and provides reference for the reform of education. The objection points out that the modern private school is contrary to our educational purpose, invades the rights of students and so on, and is suspected of illegal running.

From the legal aspect of our country, there are illegal behaviors in modern private schools, but this does not mean that the mode of running schools should be totally banned.

Modern private schools, in the final analysis, are an attempt of private education. It is of great significance to the reform of education. In fact, the government of many provinces and cities has also relaxed the control of modern private schools and provides opportunities for the development of modern private schools.

The identification of illegal behaviors of modern private schools is mainly concentrated on the following aspects.

First, the qualifications of the modern private school are not enough. At present, the standard of setting up the private schools and kindergartens is that the minimum scale requires 12 classes, with 40 persons per class, 480 people, 10 million registered fund and 1 million 500 thousand guarantee. The relatively high threshold of registration and the requirement of capital size make most of the modern private schools not qualified for running schools.

Second, modern private schools violate the compulsory education law. China's compulsory education law stipulates that under the leadership of the State Council, the local government is responsible for the compulsory education. Local people's governments at various levels should reasonably set up primary schools and primary secondary schools so that children and adolescents can enter schools nearby. The State encourages enterprises, institutions and other social forces to hold all kinds of schools stipulated in this Law under the unified administration of the local people's government and according to the basic requirements of the state. The modern private school generally adopts the boarding system, occupying most of the time of children or teenagers in the compulsory education stage, and most modern private schools cannot reach the qualifications of the private compulsory education institutions and do not carry out compulsory education. Therefore, the modern private school infringes the right of the students to receive compulsory education at the compulsory education stage.

Third, the course content of the modern private school is suspected of breaking the law. The course includes curriculum plans, curriculum standards and textbooks. The curriculum plan is the overall arrangement of all the learning tasks to be completed before the graduation of the students. The curriculum standard is a guiding document on the teaching content of various subjects. It mainly stipulates the basic requirements of the scope, depth and structure of the subject knowledge, the progress of the teaching and the teaching methods. Textbooks are teaching books based on curriculum standards and systematically reflecting the contents of subjects. In our country, the state has strict regulations on the content of the curriculum. The State Education Commission has formulated the nine year compulsory education full time primary school and junior high school curriculum plan, which stipulates that the primary school stage offers nine subjects such as moral character, language, mathematics, society, nature, sports, music, art and labor. The junior middle school set up thirteen subjects such as ideological and political, Chinese, mathematics, foreign languages, history, geography, physics, chemistry, biology, sports, music, art, labor technology and so on, and also set up a short course of vocational guidance. The course content of the modern private school is uneven, most of which are based on learning classical culture, ignoring the course content of natural science such as mathematics, and not in accordance with the state regulations.

Fourth, some teachers of modern private schools do not have the qualification of primary and secondary school teachers. In accordance with the implementation of the regulations on the qualification of teachers in China, Chinese citizens are specialized in teaching and teaching in various schools and other educational institutions at all levels, and should be qualified as teachers. However, due to insufficient funds and scale, modern private schools are unable to recruit teachers with teachers' qualifications.

#### B. *Difficult to connect with school education*

Another major problem of modern private schools is the integration with school education. Modern private schools usually carry out elementary education, and some modern private schools extend to secondary education. If the students of modern private schools want to continue to receive education, they must return to school education.

The problem of integrating modern private schools with school education has also made some parents who want to enter modern private schools look shy.

On the one hand, at the institutional level, most modern private schools have not obtained the qualifications of private schools due to the limitation of capital and scale. Therefore, students cannot be issued to the students' diploma, and students cannot participate in the entrance examination of higher school.

On the other hand, at the student level, as the modern private school is quite different from the school education in teaching methods, teaching content, management mode and so on, many modern private school students cannot adapt to the school education. For example, students who are trained by modern private schools may not be able to adapt to the class teaching system in schools. In the middle school, under the

class teaching system, a teacher often faces about fifty students and is unable to pay attention to everyone. In the University, the situation is less optimistic. A professor may have hundreds of students in the public classroom.

#### *C. The return to the ancient education become formalistic*

Chen Guoan, the master of Chinese master Qian Zhonglian, has a strong opposition to the private school education, and thinks that the spirit of the private school is all knowledge in order to be practical, and all morality is in life. Now the modern private schools in China are more formal than the content. [6]

Rejuvenation is different from revival. Rejuvenation refers to the use of progressive ideas to replace traditional, conservative and rigid ideas and achieve new achievements in some fields, making progress in human civilization, such as the Renaissance. [7] Retro education is the representation of educational forms, teaching methods and curriculum contents which have been denied by traditional educational theories.

The modern private school, such as the Mencius hall in Shanghai, mainly studies "three characters", "thousand words" and "four books and five classics", and the learning method adopts recitation method. For children, these contents obviously exceed their cognitive range; in class time arrangement, each class is generally two small, and the rest time is not set in the middle. The way of teaching is obviously harmful to children's attention concentration. Therefore, the modern private school has the suspicion that the form is greater than the content.

### IV. THE FUTURE DEVELOPMENT OF MODERN PRIVATE SCHOOL EDUCATION

#### *A. Solving the problem of legality*

To solve the problem of the legality of the modern private school is the most important thing in the future development of the private school, and it is also the basis for guiding the modern private school to contribute to the education of our country.

First of all, in the school of modern private school qualifications, the government can not only because of the capital, scale and other conditions of the modern private school restrictions and not to give legal status or indulgence. For modern private schools with potential for development and willing to be guided by the educational authorities, the government should appropriately relax standards, give them their legal status and strengthen their management, evaluation and supervision.

Secondly, the curriculum content, the modern private school cannot completely deny the content of the curriculum of school education, should be based on the content of the school education and give some emphasis on teaching. For example, private schools, as the main educational content of the traditional culture, can lay particular emphasis on the dissemination of traditional culture, but at the same time, we should set up ideological and moral, Chinese, mathematics, society and nature in primary schools with the guidance of the

nine year compulsory education full time primary school and junior high school curriculum plan. Courses such as physical education, music, art and labor, and other courses in the middle school, such as ideological and political, Chinese, mathematics, foreign languages, history, geography, physics, chemistry, biology, sports, music, art, labor technology and so on.

Finally, modern private schools should employ teachers with teacher qualifications in the selection of teachers. In accordance with the implementation of the regulations on the qualification of teachers in China, Chinese citizens are specialized in teaching and teaching in various schools and other educational institutions at all levels, and should be qualified as teachers. On the one hand, the government should give great support to the qualified private schools. On the one hand, the government should make great efforts to support the modern private schools to attract the excellent teachers; on the other hand, the government should increase the teacher assistance to the modern private school, and send a part of the excellent teachers with teaching experience to the modern private school.

#### *B. Connecting with school education*

To solve the problems of modern private school and school education, the premise of solving the legality of modern private school, that is to say, the discussion is based on the qualification of private schools in modern private schools.

One of the problems that need to be solved in the education of modern private schools is that most of the students in modern private schools are unable to connect with school education or higher education.

But indeed, a small number of modern private school students have successfully entered the institutions of higher learning. Take modern Yuan Xiaoyi as an example. The girl who received modern private school education at the age of three was admitted to university when she was 14 years old. Although this is a case, there is a contingency, but to some extent, this is also the possibility of the development of modern private school education.

The education department plays a major role in the integration of modern private school education with school education.

For most of the students of modern private schools, there are advantages in some places, and there may be some shortcomings in some aspects. For the modern private school students who are intentional to return to school education in high school or university stage, "the guidance of the Ministry of education on further promoting the reform of the college entrance examination system for high school stage" clearly points out that it is necessary to reform the enrolment method of enrollment, actively explore the results of the water level examination based on the junior high school, and combine the comprehensive quality evaluation. The enrollment mode should be further improved; the policy of independent enrollment should be further improved; and the management of examination and enrollment should be strengthened. The Ministry of education has also pointed out in the Circular of the Ministry of education to do a good job of recruiting students in

general colleges and universities in 2016. We should further promote the reform of college entrance examination and enrollment system, and further reform and improve the enrolment mechanism.

These undoubtedly provide an opportunity to return to school education for students who are different from school education and have their own advantages in modern private school education.

These policies are specific to the provinces and municipalities or schools, which require the administration to implement the policy of the Ministry of education, and to relax the entrance barriers of senior middle schools or colleges and universities to students who do have their own expertise (including the modern private school students with a special literature). In addition, the enrollment of universities or high schools pay more attention to the comprehensive quality, and the modern private school also emphasizes the education of the students, which is also a major advantage for these students to return to school education.

For the modern private school, it is necessary to give full play to its own characteristics and advantages while consciously accepting the guidance of the national education department, so as to realize the connection between the students and the school education after graduation.

### *C. Prudent choice of students and parents*

Modern private school education is only a possibility for future education development, but it is not yet mature. Accepting modern private school education means taking more risks than schooling. Private school education is mainly for primary and secondary school students. Such students can not fully decide what kind of education they want to receive. Therefore, parents should be more cautious.

First of all, once private schools are chosen, they may suffer from outside public opinion besides taking up their own risks. Not all parents have vision and culture, which can guide students' development correctly. Many parents of modern private schools are forced to return to school education under pressure.

Second, not all students are suitable for modern private schools. Modern private schools are different from school education in terms of teaching content and teaching methods. School education and modern private school education have different emphasis. The main teaching content of the modern

private school is still biased towards the traditional culture. It may not be suitable for students who love the natural science.

Finally, not all modern private schools have the qualifications for running a school. (modern private schools take a long process to legalize it. The qualifications mentioned here only refer to whether the modern private school can effectively promote the development of students' science.) Parents should choose carefully. Before deciding whether or not to accept modern private school education, parents should carefully examine the qualifications of modern private schools.

## V. SUMMARY

At present, the existence of the modern private school has a positive effect on the exploration of educational reform, the promotion of educational equity and the promotion of Chinese culture. However, there are still some problems in the modern private schools, such as illegal school running, the difficulty of connecting with school education, and the form of Retro education in the form. The modern private school education should be more suitable for the national conditions of our country and play the role of the modern private school education. The education of modern private schools should also actively explore the problems of their own legitimacy and integrate the innovation of educational content and educational methods with school education; the students and parents choose the modern private school. It should be more prudent.

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