
| RESEARCH ARTICLE

Analysis of the Causes of the Formation of the “Involution” of Chinese Family Education

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| ABSTRACT

Starting from the influence of Chinese traditional reading culture on contemporary Chinese family education, this paper analyzes the reasons for the formation of the “involution” of Chinese family education. The involution means to have fierce competition but no good feedbacks. This study found that the objective reasons include China's national education policy, and the subjective reasons come from the current family education; there are problems such as incomplete awareness of parents' education, lack of educational ability, education comparison and so on. It is proposed that the correct values and competition views should be cultivated among family members so that parents can take the initiative to break the barriers of education and promote the all-around development and healthy growth of children. This article focuses on the role of family education and the educational methods to prevent “involution”, which may provide another way for China's family education.

| KEYWORDS

Chinese Reading Culture, Chinese Family Education, “Involution” of Family Education, Educational Concept, Educational Problem, Educational Method.

| ARTICLE INFORMATION

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1. Introduction

While modernization promotes the development of society, it also shows the high requirements for people. Family education is the beginning of education. In this fierce competition, family members use family capital to obtain the most resources for students. Therefore, people use the word involution to describe it as a phenomenon of obtaining better educational resources, but the income is not good or even ineffective consumption of resources. The current situation of family education in China is that the phenomenon of re-education but not teaching is widespread, and family education problems emerge endlessly, leading to different degrees of mental health problems for students. This paper analyzes the concept of education, explores the relationship between family education and student growth, and finds the social roots of parents' educational anxiety to help them eliminate the psychological panic of “education backwardness”. Only in this way, we can fundamentally use rational and scientific educational concepts to guide students to grow up healthily and cultivate students into new young people of the era with all-round development of morality, intelligence, physical education, and labor.

2. Research on the Involution of Education

In ancient China, reading was regarded as a means to enter an official career. Even the ancient saying that “one's name is put on the published list of successful candidates, the night of the bridal chamber, and meet the old friend in another country” are called the three most magnificent events in life, and there are also the saying that “everything is inferior, only reading is high”, which is enough to reflect the status of education in Chinese traditional culture. It is generally believed that reading can acquire knowledge, improve one's self-cultivation and ability, and thus achieve success in officialdom, realize one's personal ideals, or honor one's ancestors. Nowadays, in the 21st century, many countries in the world also emphasize the importance of lifelong learning. Learning is everyone's survival instinct. Parents, on the other hand, translate educational expectations into their children's life goals,

expecting them to achieve stratum leapfrogging through learning. However, in China's education system, after the basic nine-year compulsory education, students will be diverted according to their grades. In the eyes of the vast majority of people, students who enter ordinary Senior high school or vocational and technical schools with low grades are often "inferior" and have no future. The educational prejudice of parents and even the whole society towards "achievement only high grades" has led to more and more parents and children falling into educational anxiety, thus constantly producing the phenomenon of "chicken baby", which means let the children receive heavy education from an early age, and "volution". The trend of younger age in China's education industry is serious. From the "five-year college entrance examination, which actually is three-year", it has gradually sunk to the stage of high school entrance examination, "Entrance examination from primary school to junior high school", and "Entrance examination of kindergarten to primary school" (Yao & Ma, 2022).

3. Chinese Family Education Involution Gradually Becoming a Trend

3.1 The Confusion and Misunderstanding of Family Education

Influenced by the social environment, China has experienced thousands of years of traditional feudal society, and traditional education thought is deeply rooted. It is generally believed that children can only get ahead one day if they receive a good education. However, the education system in other countries is different. Take Germany as an example. In Germany, where the dual-track system is implemented, only about 1/3 of the primary school students can enter grammar schools, with the goal of entering general (academic) universities. Other students enter practical high schools, main high schools and comprehensive high schools with the main goal of cultivating professional ability and giving due consideration to the cultivation of academic quality (He & Zhu, 2019). Its biggest feature is not to give children utilitarian score achievement orientation, not only to pay attention to the basic professional ability and social ability but also to place special emphasis on the cultivation of comprehensive ability. The system is recognized by the state, parents and children, and dual vocational education is even known as "the secret weapon of German economic take-off". China's "Y" education system is a nine-year compulsory basic unified training education model. Students are divided according to their grades after the high school entrance examination. A nine-year education is a compulsory national education that is protected by Chinese national law. And it is free. China waives all or most of the remaining fees for students receiving compulsory education. This educational system enables students to obtain basic education and complete their basic knowledge structure. The vast majority of people still dream of going to college, but when they enter secondary vocational school or vocational education, they have no future. Therefore, it is difficult for parents and children to get rid of the anxiety of entering a higher school or the anxiety of famous schools. It is often said that entering xxx schools is one step into key universities. The selection of the high school entrance examination system has brought competitiveness. It has become difficult to change the concept of "score-only theory" for parents. Under the "exam-oriented" rule, both parents and students are under serious mental stress. In 2021, China promulgated "The Opinions on Further Reducing the Burden of Homework and Off-campus Training for Students in Compulsory Education". The purpose of the policy is to ease the burden of study and homework on families and students, hoping to break this bad relationship between competition and examination. However, parents think that the policy only makes it clear that the number of supplementary classes in disciplines should be reduced and no supplementary classes should be made up as far as possible, but no reasonable measures are given. Parents feel confused and confused. Therefore, the pressure on parents to enter higher education has not been alleviated, and the point of view of "only points theory" has not changed. In addition, the educational quality of parents is uneven, which is not enough to support and guide children's learning, which deepens parents' educational anxiety. Children are the direct victims of anxiety, and their physical and mental health problems are increasing.

3.2 Lack of Family Education Ability

Parents' educational literacy levels are uneven; that is, the family's educational ability not only refers to the ability to improve children's learning but also refers to the ability to guide children's learning spirit. First, the main force of family education is whether parents have correct educational concepts and scientific family education concepts. Modern educational philosophy is different from the past, advocating "quality education" to achieve the all-round development of people. However, related studies have pointed out that many parents let their children participate in interest classes or competitions just to make their resume look better. This shows that some parents mistakenly regard quality education as another new channel for further education, which increases the pressure on students to participate in extracurricular activities in disguise. Second, parents do not recognize the development direction of vocational education. The State has placed vocational education on an equal footing with general education. In May 2022, the state implemented the newly revised "the People's Republic of China Vocational Education Law" and changed the "general job diversion" to the coordinated development of general jobs. Vocational students have the opportunity to study at a higher school, and they can apply to vocational colleges and universities. However, many parents still have the thought of "college theory" and do not give students the opportunity to guide students in accordance with their aptitude. Parents need to recognize that their children's growth requires the right guidance from their parents and understand that it is not only by receiving ordinary education that life goals can be achieved. Understand the direction of vocational education and provide more development possibilities for children. Only by establishing the ability to guide children's learning spirit can students learn and take root in a good family education.

4. The Way of Resolving Anxiety in Family Education

4.1 Set Up Correct Values and Competition Concept

The social climate is the general tendency of a society or group in the way of thought and behavior (Gu, 1998). Through the cooperation of the state, schools, and society, parents can understand the national education policy in many ways and can help parents establish correct values and competitive views of education.

At the national level, China should strengthen the publicity of the policy so that parents and students can understand the changes in the new education policy. Alleviate parents' misreading of education policy, which in turn leads to a new type of anxiety. Give full play to the guiding and encouraging role of the government and encourage enterprises and other employers to take the professional ability of talents as one of the important criteria for selecting talents. The community actively carries out educational lectures to popularize educational knowledge and update educational concepts for residents.

At the social level, the coverage of education and publicity should be broadened. For example, the propaganda that moved China's top ten outstanding figures and moral models, etc. See the outstanding figures of different professions and feel a different sense of professional achievement. Reverse the social ethos of academic qualifications and enhance the identity of the value of vocational education. It is not only to enter an academic university and obtain a high degree that is the only way to realize the value of life. Reduce discrimination in vocational education and increase the diversity of students' learning paths.

At the school level, teachers should play a supporting role and establish the connection between teachers and parents, parents and parents, and parents and children by means of home-school communication, such as opening online and offline parent meetings, educational lectures, sharing parents' educational experiences, and so on. Help parents understand the diversity of children in the development process, respect the individual development of children, and establish a correct concept of talents. Parents should establish a correct concept of talents according to the characteristics of children's development and put forward expectations and training goals that meet the actual situation of children. They should not impose their own expectations to limit their children's future academic qualifications and careers (Qiu, 2005). Only in this way can we cultivate positive and optimistic children.

4.2 Understanding the Importance of Family Education

Family education is the foundation. Children first grow up in the family, then go to school and to society. Parents have the right to choose different kinds of education. Parents should teach their children how to move forward smoothly in the turbulent times. The concept of family education affects the all-round development of children. Parents' educational attitudes, educational behaviors, educational methods, and educational expectations have a subtle and far-reaching impact on the development of children. However, most parents do not realize the importance of the role of parents in family education to their children's education and often rely on the education of their children from outside sources such as schools. In addition, it can be seen from other studies that there are still some problems in the concept of family education, such as one-sided parents' feelings, insufficient participation in the role of the father, and serious differentiation of the parents (Zhang, 2014). Without a good family education, it is like a barren land that is difficult to grow into a fruitful fruit. Parents should not only be the guides for their children's learning but also establish a good family atmosphere for their children to cultivate their children's healthy personality. Not only that, parents can also develop their ability to learn and solve problems in their daily lives. For example, education can be combined with local humanities and customs, and the story of Qu Yuan can be experienced during the Dragon Boat Festival, and the charm of dragon boat racing can be felt. Or maybe parents can ask how to make a dragon boat and why it can float on the water without sinking? If conditions permit, it is better to make a simple wooden boat. Labor education is an important part of family education, which promotes the development of intelligence, establishes a sense of responsibility and forms good working habits. Family education is not only enlightening and foundational but also a lifelong and long-term thing.

5. Summary

From the results of the theoretical study of this paper, it is concluded that the reasons for the Chinese family education to fall into the involution. "Looking for a boy to become a dragon and a girl to become a phoenix" is a cultural concept that has existed in China since ancient times. This means that the parents expect their son/daughter to be successful. Influenced by Confucian culture, Chinese parents have expectations for the achievement of their children. Although these cultures reflect China's emphasis on education, they also bring about problems such as over competition and bad involution. In addition, family members' misunderstanding and confusion about the national education system further deepened parents' educational anxiety. Parents did not establish the concept of science education, which increased the burden of children's learning. Family education should not only pay attention to children's physical and mental health but also establish correct educational concepts to prevent malicious competition and the spread of excessive anxiety. By analyzing the above reasons, this paper puts forward the means to solve educational anxiety. Let the country, society, and parents be trinity, cooperate with each other, create a good educational

environment, and enable students to develop in a multi-faceted and comprehensive manner. Let education return to its essence, which can break the "involution"; let the children fly to their sky like birds.

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