On Education between Chinese Families and American Families

School: Xi’an International University
Name: HouJing(Tracy)
Cellphones: 18840344352

Abstract:
In a lifetime, family is the first school, in which parents are the first teachers for the children, and children are the hopes of a family as well as a nation. Family education is the elementary education for children.
There are many types of family education in the world and each of them shows distinctive features and is closely responsive to its culture. American family education is the most famous one among them. Analyzing the different family education, the reasons for the difference and the results of family education between American and China can help us know it very well. Although there do exist certain difference, its influence on people can enable us to find some suggestions for family education in order to make children grow more healthily and roundly.

1. Introduction

Children are the hopes of a family as well as a nation and family education is the elementary education for children. With the rapid development of society, education is not only the development of the absolute principle, but also is related to a person’s life. Now, social development needs high qualified talents. Good family education depends on the different social systems, culture backgrounds, education aims and so on. Family education for the children are different in many aspects between American and China.

In China, many parents only care about whether the children have a promising future, a good job, a good life or not. Based on those expectations, the majority of parents feel that their responsibility for their children is to create as good condition as possible they can so that the children will not worry about anything in the future. In short,
Chinese parents would like to sacrifice anything if their children can live better with their help.

In America, American parents generally believe that the growth of children must rely on their own strength and experience. Based on this concept, most American parents emphasize more on training of their children’s ability of independence once they are born, because they think that children should form a self-supporting awareness and have capacity to live independently since their childhood. And the capacity comes from the very training in the early age.

Now, family education is very important. In such a high-speed society, all aspects of family education needs to be improved. To understand the strengths and weakness of family education between America and China, respectively to absorb the nature of family education and achieve mastery through a comprehensive study. It is important for families to find the best combine site, consciously change backward ideas of family education extend the field of family education. Enrich the content of family education in order to create a special steadily of the next generation is very well for parents. As a saying goes,” Mountain can offend jade.”

Good family education in the future needs to focus on the development of the person’s overall harmonious life. Our country’s family education is affected by several thousand
years of tradition, forming the point of the content the family education way influenced by Confucianism. We should continuously carry forward the culture. Noticing the individual is American culture development for the advocates of respect for individual freedom and rights. The national education, American family education agrees on the children's subjective initiative. The two countries of China and American are affected by Darwin’s theory of education and western philosophy. As today's values have changed, when it comes to educating children, on the one hand, parents should continue to carry forward the traditional virtue of the ancestors, at the same time, they should absorb the western humanism spirit and teach their children to pay attention to the interests of the individual phenomenon as a driving force for the development of the forward, only improving the first to make contribution to the development of society.

2. The Difference between Chinese Families Education and American Families Education

2.1 Concept

A good concept may cause a good child, good concept of education plays a determinative effect on children. In the film *Guasha Treatment* serves as a good, in a film there is scene that
Datong ordered his son to apologize to his boss’s son when he saw his son was fighting with his boss’s son. What’s more, he slapped his son in the face at the refusal of his son, which gave his boss a quite a shock. His boss became confused why the father would show the regret by striking his son. This scene and the boss’s confusion reflect the different concepts between China American. Traditional Chinese family education emphasizes kind heartedness, so we can say that Chinese parents like Datong in the film always want to model their children. On the contrary, American children have more rights of autonomy, because their parents pay more attention on justice and freedom in the process of family education.

2.2 Aim

The aim of family education is to faster the children to grow in its. It is the restrictive factor for the direction of family education, deciding the general effect, so the aim of family education is the core of family education and the fundamental reason for the differences between the two countries. There is an essential difference between two country’s aims of family, one expects the child to become an outstanding personage the other hopes the child to be a comprehensive and independent person. Person gives expression to the difference. For most
Chinese parents, the aim of family education is expecting their child to be a “dragon”, which is “wangzichenglong” in Chinese. But American parents hope the child to be a man of ability which is “wangzicengren” in China. For Chinese parents, their aim is to do anything in order to support their children to get high marks. What forms apparent contrast to it is that American parents give their children more training about improving their abilities, they try to train their children to have the ability of adapting to environmental variety and ability of living independently.

2.3 Method

The differences of concepts and aims cause the children to be taught by different ways and methods. Chinese parents affected by traditional culture, educate children with “control” and “seal” type, there are four tips for it:

(1) In daily life, Chinese parents prepare all things for their children, and the Children don’t have to do any house work, which causes children to be lack of autonomy, independence, so that thought the Chinese children are isolated.

(2) In social life, Chinese parents protect their children from the excess to social activities. Many children are
kept away from the exposure to the outer world because their parents worry about children's being affected by side-effect things. If the children stay in parents' bay for a long time, they will lose a lot of ability so that they don't know how to deal with social problems.

(3) In study, Chinese parents have a rather strict attitude towards children's school performance. Parents regard grades as the only and standard for future success. "Tasks Sea" strategy is often used in study. Chinese children are tired of doing many extra exercises, and they have no time to develop their other interests. Moreover their interests and hobbies are controlled, restricted and thus they tend to be lack versatile talents, do not possess very good development potential.

So Chinese children spend more time in studying than doing other things, what about American children? Let's talk about the famous film *The Pacifier*. In the film, it may be unconscious, but Shane Wolfe had left the kids master many skills by training them during the time when he cared them, so Americans bring up their children by the method of "letting go" but except developing children's abilities of independent living.
(4) In the relationship between their children, Chinese parents always let children make friends carefully so that children think that it’s elusive to find a perfect friend when they grow up. But American parents have an open, democratic attitude for it.

2.4 Content

The differences of family education between the two countries are also reflected in the contents of family education. Although the contents of Chinese family education can also be divided into moral education, intellectual education, physical education and artistic education, but intellectual education has been the most important one since the children go to school. However, the contents of American family education is abundant, which focuses more on the harmonious development of language, emotion, knowledge and so on, it is so called “education for all-around development.”

3. The Reasons for the Difference

3.1 Different historical background

China with a long history has a sort of innovative consciousness. There is a shortage of environment in which people can accept new ideas. By contraries, America is a nation of immigrants with a short history, there remains so little
traditional culture, under the influence of multi culture and sense of worth, it is easy for people to accept new thoughts and culture, so American children are better at taking risks and innovating.

3.2 Different economic form

China is a big country with a large population. Therefore, there are so few opportunities to find a job, a good job even can decide one’s life happiness, and getting high mark has become a necessary condition to have a good job and future. The condition of economy in America is better than that in China, so there are more employment opportunities in America. American parents think profession is not distinguished as long as they can survive in society.

3.3 Different social conditions

So far, social system and the older care have not been perfect in China. Many Chinese parents take their children as their private possession in order to receive the children’s return, their children’s high scores have become their origin of pride. But in America, there is a prosperous development of economy and sane social security system. So American parents don’t count on their children’s support, they regard educating child to be an independent conscientious and kindhearted person
as their duties.

3.4 Different traditional culture

In China, people advocate collectivism which emphasizes that the collective interests should be more important than personal one. Therefore, Chinese parents usually replace children’s interests by their own willing and thought. They design children’s future from in the adult angle. What’s more, in Chinese family, parents can raise their children for their lifetime. However, stressing personal benefit are all cores of American culture. American parents believe that it is rationalistic that children after 18 years old should be independent and not rely on their parents.

4. The Results of Two Different Kinds of Family Education

The results of family education in the two countries also display obvious differences because of the distinct of education concepts aim, methods and contents. These are mainly influenced in three aspects.

4.1 Ability of adapting to the society

Most American children can adapt to the society more smoothly than many Chinese counterpart, they can face and overcome setbacks more easily.

4.2 Ability of living independently
Compared with the independent American children, Chinese children have particularly much requirement and are strongly dependent and they always prefer to get others’ care.

4.3 Interpersonal relationships

As a result of parents’ overprotection, Chinese children have few abilities of personal interaction, while American children are opposite at this point.

5. Conclusion

In a word, family education is very important. With the progress of society and the development of the times, all aspects of family education needs to be improved. Although the academic achievement of Chinese children, teenagers and even college students is nothing less than the west, generally Chinese children show a poor ability to be independent and the lack of independent consciousness. Independence of Chinese children is not only weak, but also Chinese children are short of environment to adapt and strain capacity. Chinese children just only ask someone to take care of, but they are always lack of compassion and the ability to help others. Chinese children don’t realize that they need to respect their elders at home, outside they are being lack of social responsibility. By contrast, American parents give
children the key to open the door. American teacher education basically, there is a consensus that parents should not give children specific specification, everyone can choose according to their respective values. The importance of education is to guide them how to choose. “Give them the key that opens the more appreciate than to take them into the room.” Parents accompany behind them to give confidence, emphasizing the application to the children “in your eyes to obverse”. An appeal is being for our young parents to give the children more independent space and don’t arrange to replace everything for children, parents should know how to teach children some of the solution, not often help them to solve.

Because of the influence of different cultural backgrounds in the two countries, China and America form their national characteristics of family education. So we should carry forward the Chinese nation for thousands of year splendid civilization of brilliant crystallization. We respect each other’s cultural characteristics and draw lessons from each other on the ideas and methods of family education.