Human Solicitude Should be Concerned in the Management of College Students

LA GESTION DES ÉTUDIANTS DOIT ACCORDER UNE ATTENTION À L’HUMANISME

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Abstract: Modern education holds the concept that education is for the people. Based on the Maslow’s “Hierarchy of needs” theory, the paper analyzes the different levels of needs of the college students and the driving effects of those needs exerting on the students. The theory can be applied to the task of the management of college students. The paper proposes that a scientific student management task should start with the intrinsic motivation, satisfying the needs of the multi-layered needs of the students, attaching great importance to the human solicitude in the student management. The management of college students should focus on the ideological and moral education, make the use of motivation incentives to cultivate their temperamental qualities, explore their multi-layered potentials, boost their creative power, and encourage them to pursue higher life values and achieve self-actualization.

Key words: Student management; motivation methods; ideological and moral education; self-actualization

Résumé: Le concept de l’éducation moderne est l’éducation pour les gens, mais pas les gens pour l’éducation. Cet article part de la théorie de "l'hiérarchie des besoins" de Maslow et analyse la demande des étudiants à tous les niveaux et leurs effets incitatifs sur les étudiants. Il propose d'appliquer cette théorie dans la gestion des étudiants et montre qu'une gestion scientifique des étudiants doit commencer par la motivation intrinsèque des élèves afin de répondre à leurs besoins à tous les niveaux. Une bonne gestion des étudiants doit accorder une attention à l’humanisme, mettre l'accent sur l'éducation idéologique et morale, cultiver de bonnes qualités des étudiants, développer un large éventail de leurs potentiels, stimuler leur créativité, les inciter à poursuivre des valeurs supérieures de la vie et de se perfectionner.

Mots-clés: gestion des étudiants; approche incitative; éducation morale; auto-amélioration

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The college is a place for talent cultivation, technology innovation and modern culture transmission. Chinese higher education and colleges take the historic, national, social and epochal responsibilities of developing the Chinese nation and meet the expectations of the Chinese people. The college student management is highly important and significant in this mission. Management needs rules, and the college rules regulate the college management, however, college student management cannot solely rely on the rules and regulations to achieve quality education and the present people-oriented concept in the present time. How does the student management task fully implement the people-oriented concept in the Chinese college student management? How does the student management administrators raise the students’ self-determination consciousness and the initiatives, and help the students grow fully and healthily with the premise of respecting the dominant position and the individualistic demands of the students? In my opinion, human solicitude should be concerned in the college student management. Ideological and political education should be strengthened with human solicitude in the management of college students. The student-oriented guideline should be insisted on to fully realize the humanity spirits of respect, care, motivation, development and improvement. The student management task should be concerned with the daily lives and the truthful thoughts of the students to solve their problems, and the task should also broaden the knowledge and eyesight of the students, purify the minds of the students to help them better adapt to the society and gain the acknowledgement from the society.

1. THE DRIVING EFFECTS OF MASLOW’S HIERARCHY OF NEEDS ON THE STUDENTS

Maslow was an American psychologist, an expert on management and the major initiator of the humanistic psychology. The hierarchy of needs he proposed divides the needs of people into five categories: Basic needs or Physiological needs, Safety Needs: Security, Order, and Stability; Need for Love and Belonging; Need for Esteem; Need for Self-actualization. The theory is based on three consumptions: first, people have to survive, and their needs will have an influence on their behaviors. Only the unmet needs can influence the people’s behaviors. Second, there is a hierarchy of human needs based on the importance of the needs. Third, only when a lower need has been satisfied, the human will pursue the sequent higher needs. According to the theory, when a student lacks the feeling of security and feel threatened by the people and things around, he will become nervous and anxious, seeing everything is detestable. For example, if a student has been bullied by other students at school, or unfairly treated by his teacher, he will become doubtful of the society, shy in public and keep away from the social life to protect his feeling of security. If a student needs love and belongings but there is no care from the people around, the student will think he has no worth in this society. With the needs unsatisfied, the students will become depressed, repulsive of the school, and not happy with his family and teachers. A teenager who gains little care from his parents will feel worthless in the family, and when he is at school, he will break the school rules in order to fit in the society, for example, he will do errands for some students at school, smoke, do mischief on others, and so on. Driving by the need for self-esteem, the students will become sensitive on their reputation, become very active to gain recognition from others, and are easy to be attracted by the vanities. For example, a student will show his power by using the violence, work hard to become a doctor, or a lawyer to show his value in the society, and make money or make donation for their fame. Self-actualization is the need to purse the highest state of mind of human beings: truth, good and beauty. The self-actualization need includes the human needs for recognition, esthetic, creation, and realization of potentials. When the student’s self-actualization needs unsatisfied, they will feel their lives are empty and feel like doing something (social responsibility) to show their existence as a human being. He strongly needs something that can fulfill him, especially something that makes him feel worthy of his existence in the world. He starts to realize that values and morals of a person exceed the money, lover, respect and social prejudice. In addition, Maslow also proposed in his late years that a person will realize himself when he has confidence on himself.

Based on the analysis above, we could see that the higher levels of needs such as love and belongings, esteem, and self-actualization will produce a strong internal drive on the students. When those higher needs are met, they will be encouraged, and act positively. Otherwise, they will have negative feelings and ill behaviors. Besides, the students will better realize their potentials and selves when they are full of confidence.
2. HUMAN SOLICITUDE SHOULD BE CONCERNED IN THE MANAGEMENT OF COLLEGE STUDENTS

The present society promotes the quality education and people-oriented ideas. As an administrator on the college student management, we should hold on to the theory of education for people. The act of controlling students simply by rules is not plausible since it is not helpful to motivate the initiatives of the students. The administrators should be more concerned with human solicitude, and they respect and care the students, helping the students to realize themselves. In this way, the students can be truly and intrinsically motivated. Otherwise, the students will have the negative feelings and ill behaviors, which will cause difficulties on the student’s management mission. Human solicitude should not be neglected despite of a perfect set of rules. The simple management of the students with little humanistic care and neglecting the students’ needs for love, respect and self-actualization will be of no help to build up a warm, equal and democratic campus environment. Students are human beings, longing for the care and attention from others, especially from the teachers. They are eager to realize their worth and gain recognition from others. Therefore, the human solicitude should be paid more attention to in the class management. Care education in the whole process should be practiced: not only the school work but also the thoughts and lives of the students should be attended to. The students will feel love or even the fatherly love from the teachers. The needs of the students are multi-layered. Apart from the physiological needs, there are political and cultural needs; besides the security needs, there are needs of feeling of fulfillment, pride, success. When the basic needs satisfied, the higher needs for self-development and self actualization will become increasingly strong. The education workers should highly concentrate on students’ feelings of satisfaction, approval and happiness, fully attend to the needs of every student’s needs for growth and development, their dreams, beliefs and emotions, and striving to create an environment for the students to realize their potential in the fields he is good at and fully realize his personality, talents and potentials. In addition, the teachers should guide the students to enhance their own self cultivation, raise their state of mind, perfect their self integrity, and make their own goals, obtaining happiness from the their own labor, contribution, creation and care for others in the society.

3. THE IDEOLOGICAL AND POLITICAL EDUCATION SHOULD BE PRIORITIZED IN THE MISSION OF HUMAN SOLICITUDE

The ideological and political education is the key to quality education. The people-oriented ideological and political task is centered on students. The schools are the most important places of the systematic education. The education administrators should focus on the student needs, inspire and guide the college students to try self-education, fully take the differences of the students’ individualistic development into consideration, explore the good qualities of the college students, educate the students in accordance with their aptitudes, offer space for college students to let them be creative independently, respect their self esteem and integrity, care them, and help them perfect their moral qualities. The administrators should strive for doing everything for every student. The ideological and moral education should not solely rely on the class lectures, but also the various methods of teaching. The teachers have a great influence on the students. A teacher with good moral qualities will nurture the temperaments of the students. Education is more than the transmission of knowledge. Therefore, in the school ideological and political education, the administrators should first broaden the knowledge of the students to help them acquire the ability of distinguishing the good and the bad; the beauty and the ugliness, which is a start point of ideological and political education. The teachers and administrators should also organize activities in class and after class to cultivate their minds, exercise their willpower, and help them to form correct beliefs and good habits. Further more, the students should be taught on the pride and disgrace to guide the students to discipline themselves and correct their own errors.
4. HUMAN SOLICITUDE SHOULD BE BASED ON THE PERSONAL CHARISM OF THE TEACHERS

As we all know, there are no perfect teachers and students. Everyman has his own faults. In a teacher’s mind, a perfect student certainly possesses the following characteristics: excellent at school work, good moral quality, good quality life and habits, causing no trouble for the teachers, and so on. However, there are few students that can meet the standards. If a teacher is always angry with the students who cannot meet their requirements, it will be not helpful for the teachers to help students to improve themselves. The teachers may even have excessive behaviors, which is in contradiction with the teachers’ moral and work ethics. Cultivating students should be based on a scientific and democratic management of class and students and the integrity of the teachers. Ushinsky said: “All in education should be based on the personality of the educators. Only the personality can form the personality”. The wordless influence exceeds the deliberate education. Only when the teachers shape themselves, reform themselves, and perfect themselves, the students can be motivated to pursue truth, good and beauty, and educate, reflect, adjust and correct themselves.

Dorothy Law Nolte pointed out that “If a child lives with acceptance, he learns to love; If a child lives with encouragement, he learns to be confident; If a child lives with friendliness, he learns that the world is a nice place in which to live.” Therefore, for student cultivation, the student oriented management system should be hold on to, the multi-layered needs of the students should be better satisfied to encourage students to improve themselves. First, in class, the teachers should be patient to guide the students, acknowledge the students’ good qualities to build up their confidence and self-esteem, respect the students with true love and create a warm and harmonious class environment for the students where the students can acquire knowledge, capability and mind cultivation. Second, in daily class management and education, the administrators should create the scenarios to let the students have the opportunity to succeed and show themselves, take the students’ needs and interests into consideration, visit the students’ families, understand their thoughts, and pay attention to their happiness and pains. Second, organize various cultural activities such as singing the class hymn, launching a class journal, and organizing some speech contests and so on. These activities could help students to make use of their advantages, show their potentials and the teachers should take the opportunities to give them positive responses. Last, the teachers should help the students to learn to make their own choices, learn to think and adjust themselves, not haste to succeed to deal with the problems of school works, jobs, friends, social and psychological problems. The teachers should always remind them of their weaknesses and help the students to learn to control themselves, give the students faithful comments after the appropriate criticism. As a saying goes, Haste makes waste. Make the students live in an environment that is helpful for them to better change themselves, take more responsibilities, helping others more, studying more, having more confidence, researching more, opening more of themselves; leave more time and space for the students to think, imagine and act; create more opportunities of successes and failures, thus they will become happier and happier, accept themselves and perfect themselves.

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