

Multi-dimensional Orientation of “Educational Freedom” from Fromm’s View of Freedom

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Abstract: Freedom provides people with opportunities and conditions to realize themselves. At the same time, the pursuit of freedom is also the value aspiration and ultimate ideal of education. Positive educational freedom means that the human spiritual world can grow up in a healthy and valuable way. Fromm’s thoughts on freedom have a certain influence in Western academic circles, and can provide a new theoretical perspective for in-depth exploration of the relationship between education and freedom. This paper tries to define educational freedom from epistemology, psychology and ethics in combination with Fromm’s theory of freedom.

Keywords: Fromm; Freedom; Education

1. Epistemology: The value of freedom as enlightenment

Education itself is a kind of social practice to educate people. Therefore, the freedom of education actually provides an important condition for us to shape into a good individual. “If the so-called education is only to equip students with the knowledge and abilities necessary for a certain occupation, but does not care about the development of students’ personality, the formation of values and a full life, then this should not be a real ‘education’, but ‘training’.

Modern society needs institutions to guarantee everyone’s freedom. Freedom allows us to see and govern ourselves more clearly, and provides us with the conditions to develop and create ourselves. Only in a free educational environment can individuals have the opportunity to achieve excellent themselves. Fromm realized that when people in modern society are not freed from the traditional bondage, they are more like machines produced for social services and enslaved by the society, and each person has no own personality and way of living. People’s thoughts and thoughts are influenced by external purposes, and they are not masters of themselves. Education is therefore a mandatory intervention to develop the knowledge and skills needed by human society. If education is not protected by freedom, and freedom itself is not discussed as the value of enlightenment, then the whole education is only a forced indoctrination of people’s thoughts, limiting the play of people’s potential, and even impossible to take into account people’s interests and goals. Only when the protection of human freedom in the field of education is regarded as a necessary educational value, the whole educational system including the educational system and educational practice will not curb the development of children’s personality. We have been constantly referring to freedom, its value and purpose is to stimulate the development of everyone’s personality, so that everyone can have their own ideals and goals in life, to cultivate their own noble sentiment, rich thinking and excellent ability.

From the perspective of etymology, “teaching” in education refers more to the imparting of knowledge and skills to others, which itself has a technical meaning. Then the “education” of education contains the expectation and hope of the people taught, hope can make people become kind, it can better reflect the direction of human value. The unity of “teaching” and “education” realizes the free and comprehensive development of human being. “The realization of educational freedom enables teachers and students to experience, understand and realize the meaning and value of education, which is worth deepening the education of the whole education system or teaching life.”^[1]

Education itself is to shape the immature and imperfect people brought by nature. It is a process of gradual and continuous creation. Therefore, freedom is also to provide conditions for the full play of human potential. Their ultimate goal is to train people to have a healthy personality. We can also equate education with freedom. They reveal a profound truth: the freedom we pursue is also the aspiration of education.

2. Psychology: A state of mind

In the long struggle for freedom, we have seen freedom stumble and rise again and again. In the process of exploring it, Fromm chose the perspective of himself as a psychologist and psychoanalyst to analyze the personality of modern people. People’s mentality of both pursuing and giving up freedom is struggling in the face of this paradox. He believed that the external factors of socialization in the process of human growth had a great influence on human personality. Fromm pointed out that “the political and economic background of modern industrial society creates people’s character and makes people’s inner world always in a state of disorder.”^[2] Stepping into the new era, the prosperous and rich society gradually makes people more and more eager for the pursuit of power and

money, but they also feel the panic after being freed from bondage and desire for a sense of security, which causes people to be in an extremely contradictory psychological state. In education, when we are gradually freed from the tradition of education, constantly sublating and innovating, is there a relatively contradictory psychology, but we are immersed in the joy of educational reform and progress, ignoring the current education caused more problems in the inner world of people. Education has a side of enlightenment and limitation, but also a side of creation. The psychological state in which people pursue positive freedom can be regarded as one's inner feeling or subjective experience. In other words, it is easy to meet the needs of human existence. What we pursue and yearn for comes from the spiritual world. All people's happiness, joy, sorrow and annoyance are the products of spiritual culture. Whether we accept education or as an educator to educate others, we all hope to present a positive and healthy good psychological state in their own life, study and social interaction. What we seek is a deserved state of mind.

We want to create an environment full of positive educational freedom. On the basis of constantly improving the educational objectives, educational systems and teaching contents and methods in educational practices, we should pay close attention to the psychological development of people in education. Of course, hard conditions in education must also be based on psychology. All educational activities should start from people. The purpose of education is not to train people into tools needed by society, but to guide people's correct outlook on life and values, stimulate people's creative potential, and make people's inner world more abundant. In this process, education must do is how to promote the sound development of students' personality, but also try to prevent the formation of developing pathological personality. So, from the psychological level, educational freedom is bound to pursue such a state, shaping people with a sound personality.

3. Ethics: The humanization of educational freedom

Freedom of education itself does not mean minimal interference with people, which is a single and one-sided idea. Man himself is free, and freedom is regarded as a condition to form the basis of sound personality. From the perspective of ethics, people pursue their own freedom, which is to aspire to achieve the unity of truth, goodness and beauty of life.^[3] "Truth" necessarily refers to the pursuit of truth, which should be shown in education as the essence of scientific and cultural knowledge accumulated by human beings for a long time, which should be used through continuous sublation and innovation. This is also the method of education to grasp the necessity, but also the theoretical basis for freedom. For our pursuit of freedom to provide a solid theoretical basis. And, of course, we blindly pursuing what is good and the missing value guidance, just focus on the experience of the objective world is one-sided, dismembered people of integrity and comprehensiveness, the indoctrination and training of the strict sense of truth belongs to passive development, extremely easy to create incomplete being taken at the same time, the lack of ethics emotion mental disability. They become tools of society. An individual who only relies on rationality has no soul, while "goodness" and "beauty" lead us to observe and discover the beauty of the world and ourselves, inject fresh blood into ourselves, and pursue sensibility with rationality as the basis. Only the unity of the two can shape a perfect individual and a harmonious society. People in the society should abide by and uphold the principle of norms. The ultimate purpose of many theories about ethics proposed by previous scholars is to study how to be good from various aspects. "If the freedom to dominate the self is not the source of the highest virtue, it is the condition for the ideal to be pursued."^[4]

In the field of education, no matter teachers or students, only everyone is free can there be the possibility of being good. Establish a good ethical relationship to form an education system full of virtue. The mission of education to train people is first to shoulder the mission of the country and the responsibility of the society. In addition, to cultivate people into "people" is to cultivate the free characteristics of personality, and the purpose of human existence lies in moral self-perfection. We should gradually have the self-actualizing power of free will. The highest human reach that we may not be able to reach is a future that is open to all of us. We cannot define the good future for everyone in words. But we know that freedom itself is the highest good. There are thousands of roads that lead to it. As the highest value of ethics, people can exist in the society beautifully and happily. Any ethical standards should be based on human interests, respect for human life is always above everything else. Fromm's humanitarian ethics upholds the principle of respecting human equality and the existence of the value of every life. All moral requirements must give priority to human interests. Social moral norms never serve a certain class or any power. "Personality is shaped by the interaction of many internal and external factors," Fromm said. "We can't just think about one." Education should first consider the law of physical and mental development, fully tap the potential of personality to improve themselves, that is, to pursue personal moral standards. In addition, education needs to create an external and harmonious educational environment conducive to human development to help cultivate people's free and comprehensive development and meet people's need to pursue truth, goodness and beauty, so as to achieve the moral standards of a good educational environment.

Summary

The purpose of education should be to cultivate people for themselves, so that people can give full play to their individual potential and show their self-value in educational practice. To cultivate the values of freedom and rationality, as well as the productive character of people, the ability to recreate the way of life and create sex. From fromm's vision of freedom, this paper discusses the concept of "people-oriented" education, improves the scientific and humanized education system, thus creating a reasonable free and loose external environment of education, and at the same time looking for the road to realize the positive freedom of people in the field of education.

References:

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