

A comparative study on family education

Family



Abstract:

In a lifetime, family is the first school, in which parents are the first teachers for the children. Children are the hopes of a nation, and 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. And American family education is the most famous one among them. There are great differences in the concepts of education, aim of education, methods of education and contents of education between American family education and Chinese family education.

This thesis will complete the comparative study from the differences, the reasons and the results of family education between America and China. The author hopes to find a satisfied family education method through comparing the differences between American family education and Chinese family education. At the same time, the author hopes this thesis can provide some helpful suggestions for family education in order to make children grow more healthily and roundly.

Keywords: family education children differences education for all-around development.

Main Body:

The differences of family education between America and China: 1. The concepts of family education are different. The different education concepts between America and China lead children to receive different education. In China, many parents only care about whether the children have a promising future, a good job, a good life or not. Based on these expectations, the

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majority of parents feel that their responsibility for their children is to create as good conditions as possible they can so that the children will not worry about anything in the future.

Chinese parents would like to provide everything what they can for their children in the process of children's growth. In short, they would like to sacrifice anything if their children can live better with their help. Therefore, in the process of children's growth, the most important thing the parents concerning is to develop their children's intellect, except for caring children's daily life. In order to make their children have a good performance in study, become outstanding, or even become a famous person in the future, they would not let children do anything except studying. Constructively, American parents generally believe that the growth of children must rely on their own strength and experiences. Based on this concept, most American parents emphasize more to train their children's ability of independence once they are born because they think that children should form a self-supporting will and the capacity to live independently since their childhood. And the capacity comes from the training in the early age.

In the film *Gua Sha Treatment*, there is a 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 when his son refused to apologize, 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 the two countries. Traditional Chinese family education emphasize kindness and

obedience, so we can say that Chinese parents like Datong in the film always want to model their children.

On the contrary, America children have more rights of autonomy because their parents emphasis on justice and freedom in the process of family education. The aim of family education are different. The aim of family education is to foster the children to grow in some direction by family education. It is the restrictive factor for the direction of family education, deciding the general effect of it. So the aim of family education is the core of family education and the fundamental reason for the differences between the two countries on family education.

There is an essential difference between two countrys' aim of family education, with to expect the child to become an outstanding personage and to hope the child to be a comprehensive and independent person giving expressions to the difference. To most Chinese parents, the aim is expecting their child to be a dragon, which is wang zi cheng long in Chinese. But American parents take hoping the child to be a man of ability which is “ wang zi cheng ren ” in Chinese as their aim. For Chinese parents, their aim is to do anything to support their children to get high marks.

What forms apparent contrast to it is, in America parents give their children more training about improving abilities. They try to train their children to have the ability of adapting to environmental variety and the ability of living independently. The methods are different between America and China. The differences of concepts and aim cause the children to be taught by different

ways and methods. In Chinese family, affected by Chinese traditional culture, parents educate children by “ control ” and “ seal ” type .

There are three tips for it :

- Chinese parents prepare all things for their children in daily life. In Chinese family, children don't have to do any housework.
- Chinese parents protect the children to excess in social activities. Many children are prevented from exposure to the outer world because their parents worry about children's being affected by bad things.
- Chinese parents have a rather strict attitude toward children's study. Parents regard the grades as the only standard for future success. “ Tasks Sea ” strategy is often used in study.

Chinese children are tired of doing many extra exercises. So Chinese children spend more time in studying than doing other things. What about America children ? Let's talk about the famous film The Pacifier. In the film, it may be unconscious, but Shane Wolfe had let the kids master many skills by training them during the time when he cared them. So American parents bring up their children by the method of “ letting go ” but “ not indulging ” to exercise children's abilities of independent living.

The different contents of family education between America and China.

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 divided into moral education, intellectual education, physical education and artistic education, but intellectual education has been the most important one since they go to school.

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However, the contents of American family education is abundant, which pay more attention to the harmonious development of language, emotion, knowledge and so on. It is so-called “ education for all-around development ”.