

On Teacher's Accomplishment Orientation in the "Internet +" Era

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Abstract

A teacher's "accomplishment" plays an important role in education by "soul to soul influence", especially in the era that Internet changes human life, how to recognize the teacher still has a very large space for improvement. In the era of "Internet +", the developmental pursuits of students have undergone great changes, but real existence of teacher remains unchanged, so teachers should properly treat the accomplishment of change and unchanged: To highlight the humanities of tolerance, sincerity and kindness; integrate individuation and innovation in profession; accumulate the beauty of client and data thinking.

Key words: "Internet +" era; Teacher's accomplishment; Humane education; Real existence

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INTRODUCTION

The famous existentialist philosopher Karl Jaspers said, education "is an activity containing human spirits and cultural exchanges. Communication of people is the dialogue and openness between the two sides (me and you). This relationship between me and you is the core of human history and culture." (Jaspers, 1991, p.2) From

this, the essence of education can be understood as a kind of spiritual interaction between the teacher and students, a social activity of common growth of souls. If we can think about promoting "human history and culture" from the roles of student and teacher as a complete people, we can grasp or return to the essence of humane education.

"Teacher's accomplishment can be understood as a combination of psychological qualities which are manifested in educational and teaching activities, determine the educational and teaching effectiveness, have direct and significant impacts on the physical and mental development of the students." (Lin, 1998) It is classified into three categories, including teacher's basic accomplishment, educational professional accomplishment and comprehensive professional accomplishment (The Ministry of Education Normal Education Department, 2003, p.34, 23). "Teacher's accomplishment, firstly, contains the basic qualities of a citizen, followed by the professional knowledge and skills required for educational work, which is a precondition for a teacher to be engaged in education and teaching." (Guo & Zhu, 2013) Therefore, a teacher's "accomplishment" plays an important role in exerting "soul to soul influences" in the "me and you relationship". However, the current educational circles' concern on teacher's accomplishment is relatively limited. Examination-oriented education, cultivation of professional talents and education industrialization has laid selective emphasis on teacher's accomplishments, leading to an ignorance to teacher's basic accomplishments to a certain extent.

However, the author does not think this situation proves that "teacher's accomplishment" is not an important issue or not even a real issue, on the contrary, as Heidegger said, "Not any previous age like today which integrates so rich and different awareness on people... meanwhile, not any age like today which is so uncertain about "what in the end is people?" (Kant, 1962, p.216) That is to say, especially today almost everyone's life has

been affected and changed by the Internet, there is a great space for improvement on the understanding of teacher who acts as the guide in educational activities. This article is to start with the requirements of the “Internet +” age, concern teacher’s quality orientation, and adhere to the human nature of education.

1. EDUCATION REFORM TENDENCY OF THE “INTERNET +” ERA

The Prime Minister Li Keqiang in his 2015 government work report has mentioned eight times the “Internet +” concept. Ma Huateng’s interpretation on “+” is “all traditional trades and professions”. In the “Internet +” era, the union of Internet and traditional enterprises has been applied to the tertiary industry, and played a strong role in promoting China’s economic and social development¹.

What reform does “Internet +” education mean? It means that the boundaries of time and space to spread education are broken by information technology. Big data, cloud computing and the Internet make the content of education constantly updated. Educational styles become richer, and evaluation mechanisms are increasingly diverse; private experience provided by intelligent terminal expands the personalization of education, so that education out of school wall has more possibilities to train more talents; the “learner-centered” concept has been more widely recognized and disseminated by flipped classroom, MOOC and online education...

2. THE CHANGE AND UNCHANGED IN THE “INTERNET +” ERA

2.1 Changes in the Developmental Pursuits of Students

Modern teaching theory and cognitive science hold that classroom teaching is an organic whole constituted by many factors and layers with comprehensive functions. It consists of five factors, including teaching objective, teacher, student, teaching content and teaching method. These five factors are the key variables that influence the effectiveness of classroom teaching. (Jiang, 1996)

Indeed, whether in ancient Greek Pythagoras’ school, Plato’s Academy school; or in the Spring and Autumn Period in Confucian, Legalistic and Mohist schools, classroom teaching has never been separated from knowledge teaching. Considering the concept of classroom, it firstly refers to “student learning place,” followed by “main channel educating people”, and learning is “the process of acquiring knowledge and skills.” Thus, the transfer of knowledge is the first priority to carry out in the classroom, is the foundation of all classroom activities which can be denied by no one.

¹ http://news.xinhuanet.com/video/sjxw/2015-03/13/c_1114634123.htm

However, if only gets to here, classroom seems to be replaceable, especially in such an era that the Internet provides unlimited possibilities for the dissemination of knowledge. As long as we like, search engine can extend countless tentacles to find what you want. In this regard, Professor Ye Lan from East China Normal University made a reflection that “simplifying the rich, complex and changeable classroom teaching to be a special recognition activity, abstracting and isolating it from the integral life activities is the most fundamental flaw of the traditional classroom teaching values.” (Ye, 2006) Professor Ye Lan’s remark is thought-provoking. The activities passing knowledge are only a part of the overall human lives. In the classroom supported by modern educational theory, there is not only knowledge understanding, but also knowledge application, namely various possibilities for students’ development. For example, cultivate the thinking way, psychological model, creative awareness and comprehensive qualities required by the “Internet +” age. Therefore, classroom teaching should pay more and more attention to the overall development of students, namely, to the teaching purpose of cultivating ability and emotion which has been widely recognized.

2.2 The Unchanged Real Existence of Teacher

Suhomlinski said: “Education is a very delicate spiritual activity.” The process of education fits with people’s spiritual world. The spiritual world of people can be divided into three levels: knowledge, thought and spirit. In classroom, knowledge can be passed, professional thinking can be developed, but spirit based on emotion is the most difficult to form. Even in the “Internet +” era, in the classroom where the students interact with the teacher face to face, only the real existence of teacher can create complete and dynamic teaching activities, maintain the possibility to keep oneself, and acquire happiness in teaching instead of be eliminated. In fact, teacher’s existence highlights teacher’s accomplishment. A teaching guide with accomplishment can give reasoned explanations, guide students to deeply understand the taught contents in the actual classroom, interact with students through the virtual Internet to learn more about their ideas, and determine, select and process methods to develop their abilities. In this process, the teacher’s attitude and personality provide the students an experiential environment, enables them to feel equality in learning and communication, and have space to develop and go beyond themselves. Although the classroom of “Internet +” age undergoes a lot of changes, the key position of emotional communications between the teacher and students, namely the “relationship between you and me” remains unchanged. This is the precise reason why realistic classroom cannot be completely substituted by remote teaching, network information, as well as the very fashionable “MOOC” nowadays.

3. ACCOMPLISHMENTS WHICH SHOULD BE ACQUIRED BY TEACHER IN THE "INTERNET +" ERA

Therefore, in the "Internet +" era, what accomplishments should be a teacher development to deal with the constant changes and unchanged in teaching?

3.1 Demonstrate Goodness of Human Tolerance and Sincerity

The value of education firstly lies at the representation of goodness of humanity. "Humanity is actually divided into two parts. One is the lower part, including biological will, daily emotion and scientific rationality, the other is the higher part, including morality, will, religious feeling and philosophical reason." (Zhou, 2011) In educational activities, the goodness of these knowledge, emotion can be inspired and integrated in various forms. The basic accomplishments of teacher is mainly the highlight of human goodness. In the "Internet +" era, tolerance and sincerity should be the integral primary accomplishment of teacher.

3.1.1 Tolerate and Adapt to the Multiple Learning Modes in the "Internet +" Era

The significant sign of "Internet +" era is the inexhaustible network resources, which provide a more convenient and rich reservoir for teaching. Teaching content, teaching method and teaching evaluation relying on the network breaks the traditional framework, and allows the students to be a powerful force in learning and development. However, breaking tradition equals to go against tradition. In the "Internet +" era, the leading and controlling position of teachers have been hit the most greatly.

For example, the protagonist in "flipping classroom" is no longer a teacher, but the students discussing issues. Traditional models that "students learn in class, teacher teaches basic knowledge" and "students work on abstruse problems at home" are flipped to be "students learn basic knowledge at home" and "students discuss abstruse problems in class". A teacher's position as a knowledge dissemination leader in the traditional educational activity has been weakened, but his fast standing in the classroom has remained unchanged. The existing form of the teacher needs to be adjusted, but his mind responding to and dealing with changes must be open.

Additionally, MOOC breaks the restrictions of time, place and profession, allows students to learn according to their wishes, and customizes individual developmental programs according to their options of heart. The US launched a more intelligent and personalized learning platform, which can generate 2.7 billion personalized learning paths. In this context, a teacher must cherish a tolerant heart, neither rejects nor fears such a change, but boldly go contact and try how to use the Internet to

achieve growth and development in the "you and me relationship".

3.1.2 Sincerely Return to the Origin of Knowledge With Students

"The Internet age is to make knowledge back to life, make people return to the origin of knowledge to experience education, experience the unity of knowledge and life". (Tang, 2015) In traditional education, a teacher is just a disseminator of knowledge. In the eyes of students, a teachers is labeled with the name of the taught course, because the teacher's sayings and behaviors are all the appearances of the "course", not his unique "personal" thinking and value judgment. The teacher in students' eyes is often far away from his most authentic side, even irrelevant. The "you and me relationship" between the teacher and students rely entirely on "knowledge transfer" for maintenance.

However, in the "Internet +" era, everyone obtains knowledge of the network channels equally and openly, teachers' knowledge hegemony increasingly declines. Faced with massive intellectual resources, teachers should work with awe and humility, act as "learners" by returning to the true nature of people. Interactions between a warm, sincere and imperfect teacher without the sacred aura of authority and students cannot be substituted by a smooth-talking on-line teacher in the cold screen. Therefore, only a teacher capable to integrate sincerity into teaching activities can make education more vivid, and be irreplaceable by Internet technology.

3.2 Integrate Personality and Innovation Into True Profession

In ancient Greece, there is no absolute division in human knowledge. When we divide knowledge categories more carefully, it on one hand improves specialization in knowledge and technology, on the other hand leads to more narrowed horizon of the professional people, especially a lot of scientific and technological specialties tend to exclude concerns on people, alienating people as objects. In the education field of the "Internet +" era, true professional learning seems to require some reflections.

3.2.1 Sublimation of Professional Learning Cannot Be Separated From Teacher's Personalities

"A teachers himself is the best course", this experience is actually not a new phenomenon. In a professional learning process, it can be often found that students love a course and profession because they like the teacher. Presently, the development of school-based curriculum is to work hard on building a curriculum system characterized by "this" school, and guide the students to select courses according to their interests, hobbies and development goals.

In the "Internet +" era learning paths are rich and open. If a teacher wants to maintain the attractiveness of his taught learning, he must combine the contents of the course and his personalities more closely to create his own "personalized course." That is, to find

“humanity” in the professional shaping, give personalized understanding, observation and experience to the professional learning, actively share his feeling, attitude and value to this profession, and eventually turn “teaching” into “education”. For the students seeking professional learning, this learning process can not only help make progress on the knowledge, skills of the profession, but also help select and shape a recognition of value.

3.2.2 The Sense of Innovation Is the Core Strength of Teacher’s Development

In the “Internet +” era, can be a teacher who can make good use of advanced hardware and “cruise” well in network be called as an excellent teacher? The answer is obvious. Becoming familiar with new technology and applying new technology are the premise to carry out professional learning, but what’s more important is to integrate the sense of innovation into professional learning, and “practically” converge originality in technology to efficiently develop professional learning.

For example, a Chinese language teacher at Shanghai has set up a column called “Three Hundred Words Essay” in his Wechat public number to publish his students’ writings. Beyond expectation, his students like reading the writings of their classmates very much. Additionally, the principal, other teachers and parents can also read these works and share to the friend circles. Gradually, the students are all proud to publish articles in the column. It can be imagined that the students must maintain enthusiasm and keenness on writing, and only the teacher good at applying new technology to innovate teaching can go further in the “Internet +” era.

3.3 Demonstrate the Beauty of User Thinking and Data Thinking

What is beauty? From knowing to understanding! “User experience”, “big data” are the familiar terms in the “Internet +” era, but how to apply them in the field of education and use them to make benefits for students is what teachers should experience and understand.

3.3.1 Develop the User Thinking of “Centering on Students, Understanding Students”

“User thinking” means that the various steps in the value creation chain of goods should pay attention to “user’s experience” and “user-centered” to think about problems. In the teaching process of the “Internet +” era, teacher’s thinking must be established on the “student-centered” basis. Only understanding the needs of students, the teacher can construct a teaching system in line with the students’ developmental needs, and can always adjust teaching according to the students’ learning to achieve the best effectiveness. Without students’ recognition, a unidirectional education cannot be successful and perfect.

3.1.2 Establish a Thinking Way of “Understanding Students Based on Data”

Traditional teaching also uses a lot of data, such as average, pass rate, excellent rate, fallible questions and so

on. In the “Internet +” era, teachers can use information technology and large data to pay close attention to each student’s microscopic performances. For example: In the online learning process, when does he open his instructional video, with or without a pause? What is the error rate in his answers after watching the video? In the homework, what is his favorite and best questions? How long does he take to complete it? In the discussions of flipping classroom, how many times does each student make speeches? How often does he take the initiative to ask questions and exchange with classmates? Such large data thinking is convenient for teachers to re-induce and arrange key and difficult teaching points, design better on-class discussions and after-class self-study programs for different students to promote individualized development of every student.

In fact, the ultimate purpose of education is not to cultivate outstanding talents as many as possible, but to provide each student an equal learning opportunity and developmental possibility. In the “Internet +” time of change, school education may undergo earth-shaking changes, but the teachers of accomplishment will remain unchanged in the constant changes, because this kind of teachers can experience the elegance of knowledge and enter the origin of life with students. Perhaps, we can have such a bold idea: In the uncertain future, maybe the term of “teacher” will become history, but some of its core qualities will still exist in some people and influence the mankind who never gives up learning!

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