# Influence of Confucian View of Honesty and Credit on College Students' Honesty and Credit Education

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ABSTRACT. Honesty, as the essence of Confucian traditional culture, has been highly valued and respected by Confucians for thousands of years. In the period of social transformation in China, the system of social honesty and credit is not perfect. In addition, the examination-oriented education mode has been the mainstream, neglecting the overall development of students'quality, and the serious shortage of honesty and credit education in Colleges and universities has led to the frequent exposure of honesty and credit crisis among contemporary college students. It is of great practical significance to grasp the shining point of the Confucian concept of honesty and credit, fully tap the value of the Confucian concept of honesty and credit for Contemporary College students, establish lofty ideals and beliefs for Contemporary College students, and explore ways to solve the current crisis of College Students'honesty and credit.

**KEYWORDS:** Confucian honesty concept; Honesty education for college students; Influence

# 1. Introduction

As an important part of the socialist core value system, integrity is the basic moral requirement of the citizens of the country, and its social attention has been high. In fact, in the traditional culture of the Chinese nation, honesty is the essence of Confucian culture. From ancient times to the present, Confucian honesty and credit concept has exerted profound influence on Chinese society and even the world in many aspects. In the process of social transformation in China, the phenomenon of honesty crisis among college students, such as homework plagiarism, exam cheating, thesis plagiarism and resume fraud, has become the focus of widespread

concern.

# 2. Basic Connotation of Confucian View of Honesty and Credit

# 2.1 From the ontological point of view, honesty and credit are innate

The Book of Rites says, "Heaven and Tao are the best religions and saints are the best virtues." Mencius believed that "honest people are also the way of heaven; honest people are also the way of man." Those who are sincere and do not move are not there; those who are not sincere and do not move are also there. [1] P123 Zhu Xi also said, "What is honest? No self-deception, no delusion. In Confucianism, "benevolence, righteousness, propriety, wisdom and faith" is classified as the "Five Constants". "The Doctrine of the Mean" put forward: "The sincere, the Tao of Heaven is also; the sincere, the Tao of Man is also." Man should be honest, honest and reliable, just like the law of nature. Credit also has the meaning of value origin, and is the foundation of all moral principles and moral behavior. The value of honesty lies in that it promotes the human value orientation of the ultimate goodness and promotes the generation of human character. It pursues the idea of the universe's existence, and constructs the core character of Chinese culture.

# 2.2 From the epistemological point of view, honesty and credit are the essential characteristics of human beings

Mencius said in "Heart to Heart" that "He who does his best knows his nature. Knowing its nature is knowing heaven." "University" put forward that "if you want to govern your country, you should first align your family; if you want to align your family, you should first cultivate your body; if you want to cultivate your body, you should first rectify your heart; if you want to correct your heart, you must first sincerely..." Zhu Xi thought, "Those who are sincere are the first to cultivate themselves." Mencius regards "trustworthiness of friends" as the basic norm of dealing with friendship. Xunzi regards honesty as an important moral standard to distinguish between gentlemen and villains. This means that honesty is the essential requirement of human beings. Only by understanding and grasping the law of moral cultivation can education develop in the direction of conforming to the law of social

development and embodying the essence of human beings.

# 2.3 From the point of view of practice, honesty is the result of practice cultivation

Gentlemen are the ideal moral personality of Confucianism. How to cultivate such an ideal personality and cultivate a "gentleman" suited to the needs of society? Confucianism emphasizes the importance of practice. As stated in the Book of Rites, "a gentleman is ashamed of his virtue and has no way to do it", which fully emphasizes the role of moral practice. Noble morality is the result of self-cultivation of "three provinces a day" and the result of moral practice of "ritual, music, shooting, imperial, book and art". "Cheng Wu, Zhi Zhi, Sincerity, Sincerity, Self-cultivation, Qi Jia, Governing the Country and Peacing the World", "Disciples enter into filial piety, but they are disobedient, sincere and trustworthy, universal love and kindness", "Zi teaches with four religions, and conduct loyalty and faith". It is through the cultivation of honesty awareness, deepening honesty emotion, establishing honesty belief, firm honesty will, cultivating honesty behavior, both inside and outside, and paying equal attention to both knowledge and practice that can be realized in practice. The sublimation of honesty and morality. From this we can see that the Confucian concept of honesty is honesty, not deception, consistent words and deeds, abide by credit. As the "honesty" of virtue, it requires not only the spirit of seeking truth from facts, but also goodness and morality, which is the "honesty" of the combination of ontology, epistemology and pragmatism in the true sense[1].

# 3. Analysis on the Reasons of College Students' Credit Crisis

# 3.1 Insufficient Social Credit System

Compared with many developed countries, China's current social integrity management mechanism is not perfect, and the cost of dishonesty is low, which is also a major incentive for college students to fall into the credit crisis. China's society has entered a period of transformation in an all-round way, and the values of honesty and credit are facing unprecedented impact. Commercial fraud, jerry-building in manufacturing industry, falsification in academia, and even "touching porcelain" on the road are emerging in endlessly. Many people have

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distorted their values and advocated such distortions as "honesty equals loss" and "honest people are fools". Under the imperfect social credit system, the students in the ivory tower are inevitably affected by the bad social atmosphere.

# 3.2 Evil Effect of Examination-oriented Education Model

At present, the stage of College Students' acceptance of primary and secondary education is still generally in the exam-oriented education mode. Society, schools and parents excessively pursue students' curriculum scores. The promotion of quality education in many areas of the country is often hindered, and the traditional cultural system education that students can receive is negligible. Up to now, the whole society is still suffering from the consequences of exam-oriented education[2].

# 3.3 Insufficiency of Credit Education in Colleges and Universities

In the past, in the ideological and political education of colleges and universities, there were many problems to be solved, such as the dull content of education, the single method of education, the lax management of honesty and credit, and the lack of evaluation mechanism. For a long time, the overall integrity education mode in Colleges and universities has been mainly based on the theoretical inculcation of public courses or professional courses of Ideological and political theory.

# 4. Influence of Confucian View of Honesty and Credit on College Students' **Honesty and Credit Education**

# 4.1 Strengthen the Cognitive Education of Honesty and Credit

# 4.1.1 Advocating Contemporary College Students to Recognize the Category of Honesty and Credit

In the serious honesty problem of contemporary college students, it is thought-provoking to have a vague understanding of the category of honesty and the connotation of honesty. A large number of dishonest college students know that the

concept of honesty is too narrow, small details have nothing to do with honesty, it is the lack of Confucian spirit of caution and independence. Although they agree with the concept of honesty, they are not clear that fabricating reasons for truancy, homework plagiarism and cheating in examinations are dishonest behaviors. "College students' honesty and credit education requires high goals, but it should start from a low starting point and grasp the basic behavior."

# 4.1.2 Teach College Students to Value and Reflect on Their Honesty

"Pre-Qin Confucianism emphasized the value of morality and self-discipline, emphasized the principles and methods of moral education, and put forward the principles and methods of prudence and independence, introspection and correction, which all have certain operability." Contemporary college students generally lack the consciousness and ability of inner reflection. The reason lies in not only the insufficient attention to honesty and credit, but also the inadequate ability to realize and reflect on honesty and credit. These are all due to the weakness or even lack of honesty and credit cognitive education. Colleges and universities can learn from the Confucian concept of honesty and credit, such as cultivating the thinking habits of "three provinces of our own" and so on, gradually strengthen the cognitive education of honesty and credit, actively advocate honesty, guide students to recognize the scope of honesty and credit, learn to reflect consciously, and strive to establish the necessary height of honesty in the minds of contemporary college students[3].

# 4.2 Promoting Integrity and Integration of Knowledge and Practice

# 4.2.1 Enhancing the Practice of College Students' Honesty and Credit

At present, honesty education in Colleges and universities lacks systematization, and there is a general lack of targeted and planned honesty education and honesty practice. In academic research in Colleges and universities, Confucian academic integrity spirit of "knowing is knowing, knowing is not knowing" is actively advocated, and college students are widely motivated to refuse academic fraud. In terms of interpersonal communication, college students should be encouraged to

"make friends with friends and be trustworthy in their words". In the aspect of college students'job-hunting, we should guide them to apply for jobs in good faith and refuse to pursue blindly the success rate of job-hunting and fake it. In the process of employment guidance in Colleges and universities, we should advocate "being sensitive to things and being cautious in words". While encouraging job-hunting self-confidence and training job-hunting ability, we must increase the proportion of honest job-hunting education of college students through various channels.

# 4.2.2 Promoting College Students' Credit Evaluation Mechanism

The low cost of College Students' dishonesty is one of the causes of College Students' credit crisis. Promoting honesty evaluation mechanism is very necessary for realizing the unity of knowledge and practice of college students' honesty. Improve the reward and punishment system in Colleges and universities, increase the cost of college students' dishonesty, and urge college students to act in good faith. We should advocate innovative reform ideas, establish and improve college students' integrity archives, make integrity an important passport, let the trustworthy benefit everywhere, make it difficult for the trustworthy, and even make the lessons of trustless punishment a lifelong "alarm bell". With the continuous improvement of College Students' honesty evaluation mechanism, promoting the integration of College Students' honesty concept and behavior, gradually realizing the Confucian so-called "sincerity thinkers, people's way". That is to say, pursuing honesty is the fundamental requirement of being a man. Keeping a good honesty image becomes the necessary basis for college students to achieve perfect study, employment and future life.

# 4.3 Promoting the Education of Good Faith Model

# 4.3.1 Strengthening the Credit Requirements for Teachers

Teachers are pioneers of honesty in Colleges and universities. To be a model for teachers, we should set an example for students by setting an example of honesty and abiding by the principle of honesty. "If they are right, they will not do what they

want; if they are wrong, they will not do what they want", which calls for strengthening the integrity requirements of university teachers and achieving the purpose of honesty model education through teaching by words and deeds.

# 3.3.2 Encouraging Excellent and Honest Students

"Gentlemen's honesty is the most precious," through launching multi-channel publicity, large-scale encouragement of honest students in Colleges and universities typical. Institutions of higher learning set an example of honesty among students, and even recruit volunteers to publicize honesty, so as to motivate students to take honesty as their pride and shame.

# 4.4 Creating an atmosphere of honesty and credit

# 4.4.1 Outside classroom

Colleges and universities should pay attention to cultivating students' sense of honesty and credit, and vigorously carry out the establishment of honesty campus and class. Through campus propaganda boards, classrooms, newspapers, radio stations, websites, Wechat public numbers and other multi-dimensional propaganda platforms, so that the majority of students in daily life imperceptibly receive integrity education, and pay attention to integrity issues.

# 4.4.2 In the classroom

Colleges and universities should actively set up a good environment for students to study and exercise their integrity concept. Establishing the learning base of Confucian traditional culture and the base of honesty and duty propaganda are all good ways of centralized cultivation of environment[4].

In short, "honesty education is the requirement of the times. College students'honesty education is related to the prosperity of the country, the prosperity of the nation and the success or failure of the socialist cause, the survival and development of colleges and universities, the future and destiny of students." Although honesty education for contemporary college students is a long process, as

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long as our educators really shoulder the responsibility of promoting Confucian honesty and credit. Virtue, the dissemination of traditional Chinese culture, the important task of purifying the social atmosphere, we will certainly be able to promote the harmonious campus, and even the harmonious society to continue to develop.

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