

The Educational Contradiction between Love and Expectation in Family Education under the Background of Exam-Oriented Education: A Case Study of the Movie “Successor”

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Abstract:

Based on the background of exam-oriented education in China, this paper probes into the educational contradiction between love and expectation in family education, and the impact of this contradiction on family members' mental health and family relations. The family education scene embodied in the movie “Successor” provides a typical case study object. From the perspectives of pedagogy, psychology, and sociology, this paper systematically analyzes the effects of family roles on children's psychological development and academic achievement. This study analyzes parents' loving support and excessive expectations for their children's education. The study found that moderate expectations can stimulate the potential of students, but blind and overloaded expectations may cause students to reverse psychology, and even lead to the breakdown of family relations. The comprehensive analysis of love and expectation in family education provides the theoretical basis and practical guidance for alleviating the family education contradiction under the background of exam-oriented education and provides a new perspective for promoting the optimization and development of the family education model.

Keywords: Exam-oriented education; love and expectation; movie “Successor”

1. Introduction

In China's long tradition of education, exam-oriented education is the core feature of the Chinese education system, and love and expectation in family education is a worthy field of study. Exam-oriented education usually focuses only on grades and academic achievement. However, with the rapid development of society and the influence of globalization, the traditional exam-oriented education model has gradually exposed its limitations. In the current social background, the long-term existence of exam-oriented education has led to an obvious contradiction between the expectations and love of children in family education. For example, parents have too high expectations for their children, single education methods, and the parent-child relationship is tense. These problems not only affect children's mental health but also reflect the contradiction between family education and social education. Parents' love and expectations are often combined with the requirements of exam-oriented education, resulting in family education tending to achievement, ignoring children's interests needs, and emotional care. This kind of educa-

tion may cause children to reverse psychology. Therefore, the study of these contradictions in family education is of great significance for improving the family education environment and promoting the healthy growth of children. The topic of this study is how to balance parents' love and expectations and adjust the education method under the framework of exam-oriented education. Through the case study of the film “Successor”, this paper reveals the deep-seated causes of educational contradictions and then puts forward practical suggestions to promote the healthy development of family education. This study can provide parents with scientific education concepts and methods, help parents better understand and support their children, and also provide a basis for education decision-makers to formulate more humane education policies.

2. Case Description

This paper takes a film recently released in China as the research object. It's called the “Successor.” “Although the film is a work of fiction, its profound themes and plot offer audiences a unique perspective on family education in China. This article will start from the film, combined

with the exam-oriented education background policy in real society, in-depth analysis of the forms of expression, influence, challenges, and opportunities faced by Chinese family love, and strive to fully demonstrate the complexity and multi-faceted nature of Chinese family love. This film is about a rich couple to trained their son to be the perfect family successor and decided to hide their real wealth and pretend to be poor, they created a fictional poor world, hired a whole team to play the son's life in the "poor neighbors", secretly for the child's growth service. However, as the child grows older, he sees through the "scam" of his parents, and finally finds that it is all a lie, and finally he bravely chooses the life he wants. This extremely absurd way of education in the film not only reveals the problems of guilt education and excessive control that are common in traditional Chinese families but also profoundly analyzes the psychological changes of children in the family environment and the desire to pursue freedom. In the film, as he grows older, he gradually finds that his life is under the control of his parents, and to express his dissatisfaction and confusion, he decides to draw pictures on the exam papers. According to Coe et al. 's research on parent-child control relationships, when children feel overly controlled and repressed, they may express their feelings and needs through creative means, such as drawing [1]. It shows that this is a way for him to resist extreme education, show his inner world, and pursue self-worth and interests. After the child in the film discovers his parents' secret, the father still doesn't think he cheated on his son, but thinks it is a white lie, that they have made all the decisions for the child, and only need the son to follow the path to the end to succeed. This reflects the excessive control of Chinese parents, including study, career, and even marriage. They tend to make all the decisions for their children. Parents usually pursue grades too much and neglect their children's interests. This practice limits the child's autonomy and independence. Children cannot think independently and solve problems.

3. Family Education under the Exam-Oriented Education

Under the background of exam-oriented education, family education presents a complex interweaving of love and expectation. On the one hand, the family promotes the academic performance of the child through clear expectations and goals and assumes the responsibility of expecting the child to excel in the fiercely competitive environment. This expectation is often reflected in intensive academic tutoring, extracurricular training, and strict monitoring of grades. Family elders often realize their educational ideals through children, and this expectation of

intergenerational inheritance constitutes the core driving force of family education. However, the excessive reinforcement of expectation is accompanied by the absence of love in family education, which is particularly obvious in the "Successor".

3.1 The Role of Love and Expectation in Education

Love and expectation play a complex role in education, especially in family education in the context of exam-oriented education. Studies have shown that love as a form of emotional support can significantly improve students' motivation and mental health. Specifically, emotional care and support from parents can enhance children's self-confidence and improve their academic performance [2]. According to the China Family Education National Survey Report released in 2018, "Having a warm home" tops the list of the most important things in students' lives [3]. This shows that most children regard the family as the most important pursuit in life, which reflects their importance to family, dependence on family, and expectation of a warm family. Providing a stable and warm environment is an important way to properly love children, parents should provide a positive family atmosphere for children and create a harmonious family relationship [4]. However, love can sometimes be at odds with implicit expectations, especially with parents' intense focus on academic achievement, which often translates into pressure on the child. However, when the expectation is beyond the child's ability, it is easy to lead to emotional conflict and psychological burden. Excessive academic expectations may lead to psychological problems such as anxiety and depression, and cause family conflicts.

3.2 Current Situation of Educational Contradiction

The current situation of educational contradiction is mainly reflected in the conflict between love and expectation of family education under the exam-oriented education system. On the one hand, families generally have high expectations for children's education, especially in academic performance, which is reflected in the pursuit of high scores and the desire for future social status. According to relevant research data, in recent years, 92% of parents expressed hope that their children could enter key high schools, and almost 100% of the examinees chose high-intensity tutoring classes [5]. This trend leads to the strict docking of family education and exam-oriented education, which makes children face academic pressure while family expectations bring emotional burdens. On the other hand, the love and care for children in family education are often difficult to balance with the harsh re-

quirements of exam-oriented education. According to the survey, more than 75 percent of children reported feelings of psychological stress and anxiety when accepting their parents' expectations [6]. The additional pressure brought by parents' high expectations often makes it difficult for children to enjoy the learning process, forming inner educational contradictions. In the final analysis, the causes of educational contradictions can be attributed to the following points: First, society attaches too much importance to education, making academic success become the key evaluation standard, forming the general concept of "getting ahead"; Secondly, the traditional education concept is deeply rooted, many parents still think that high scores equal success, ignoring the importance of children's all-round development. Many parents lack scientific education concepts and methods and fail to adapt to the development of The Times, resulting in relatively backward education methods. The expression of educational contradiction also evolves with the change of family structure. For example, the diversified structure of single-parent families and dual-income families makes the family education environment complicated and affects the family's attitude and transmission mode of education. In such an environment, children often face more complex psychological burdens, thus forming an educational atmosphere that is not conducive to their development.

3.3 The Influence of Exam-Oriented Education on Family Education

3.3.1 Family education in the context of exam-oriented education

The pressure of exam-oriented education makes family education face many challenges. In this culture, academic achievement is seen as an important measure of success, family support becomes an invisible pressure, creating emotional barriers between family members, making parent-child relationships more strained, and love and care are often neglected. The influence of exam-oriented education on family education is mainly reflected in three aspects: parents' expectations of children, family atmosphere, and education mode.

3.3.2 Expectations for children

Under the exam-oriented education system, academic achievement has become the main criterion for parents to evaluate their children, which directly leads to the simplification and utilitarianism of the goal of family education. According to the survey, about 72% of parents believe that school achievement is the main indicator to measure their children's success, which leads to home education focusing more on knowledge transfer and exam skills training

rather than overall quality improvement [7].

3.3.3 Family atmosphere

In the exam-oriented education environment, the family atmosphere has also been significantly affected. Many parents worry that their children are under great competitive pressure, often using high-pressure education methods, and ignoring emotional communication and psychological care, leading to family tensions. Studies show that 58 percent of children in families that focus too much on schoolwork have mental health problems, manifested in anxiety, depression, and other emotional problems. In the pursuit of success, parents often inadvertently erase the development of their children's personality and the realization of self-worth. There are often contradictions between parents' educational expectations and actual educational methods. Although many parents want their children to be well-rounded, with high emotional intelligence and creative thinking, under the pressure of an exam-oriented educational background, many families still take "good grades" as the core goal, which inhibits children's independent exploration and innovation ability. In a study on homeschooling, about 65% of parents expressed a willingness to change their parenting style, but a lack of proper educational ideas and practical guidance hindered practical action [5].

3.3.4 Educational model

The profound influence of exam-oriented education on family education is also reflected in the allocation and use of educational resources. Due to the orientation of exam-oriented education, many families concentrate their money and time on exam-oriented counseling agencies and training institutions, while neglecting other educational directions such as arts and sports. Data show that only 34% of parents arrange after-school art learning for their children, and a large part of parents choose to ignore this aspect of education, further weakening their children's ability to develop in other areas [8]. The exam-oriented education also imperceptibly influences the values of family education. With the improvement of parents' awareness of competition, families have generally formed an educational concept that emphasizes intelligence and ignores personality. According to the survey, more than 70% of parents believe that a high degree is a necessary condition for their children's future success [9]. However, the emphasis on non-intellectual factors such as moral quality and social responsibility is insufficient. This trend poses a potential threat to the overall development of children and may result in children lacking the comprehensive capacity to cope with social challenges. Through the contradictory analysis of love and expectation in family education, it

can be seen that exam-oriented education not only affects the form and content of family education but also profoundly changes the essence and direction of family education. With the development of The Times, some families began to reflect on the drawbacks of exam-oriented education, seeking a more balanced educational concept, and emphasizing the cultivation of children's personality and mental health. The core of education is no longer a simple test score, but how to help children build self-confidence and develop the ability to adapt to society. Although this change has not yet been widely realized, initial results have been achieved in some family education practices, and parents realize that cultivating children's independent learning ability is more important than grades. The ultimate goal of education is to enable children to face future challenges independently, not just to meet exam standards.

4. Suggestion

In the exam-oriented education environment, family education has an important impact on student's physical and mental development and the formation of values. To reconcile the contradiction between love and expectation in family education, can start from the following aspects. On the one hand, establish the common goal of family education. Parents should be clear about the purpose of education, not only pay attention to academic performance but also pay attention to the development of children's interests and mental health. Reduce educational stress caused by excessive expectations by discussing educational goals together. On the other hand, promotes a good communication mechanism. Regular in-depth communication with the child, lets the child take the initiative to express their feelings and ideas. Set up family meetings or conversations in a way that allows parents to keep abreast of their children's inner changes, hear their views on family expectations, and adjust accordingly. Finally, pay attention to mental health education. Psychological training for children to help them better cope with study pressure and family expectations. Through psychological counseling, emotional management courses, and other ways can enhance children's ability to resist pressure, cultivate their emotional expression and self-regulation ability, and fundamentally alleviate educational contradictions. At the same time, continue to pay attention to the development trend of education, update the educational concept and practice, and ensure the harmonious integration of family education and social education. Through the above ways, family education can achieve an effective balance between love and expectation, promote the all-round development of children, and create a good family education atmosphere.

5. Conclusion

The purpose of this research is to explore the educational contradictions between love and expectation in family education under the background of exam-oriented education and take the movie "Successor" as a specific case for in-depth analysis. By analyzing the parenting style of the rich couple in the film, this study aims to reveal the excessive expectation and control phenomenon prevalent in current family education, as well as the potential impact of these phenomena on children's growth and mental health. The above conclusions can be drawn in favor of family education. These conclusions emphasize the importance of keywords such as respect, balance, guidance, communication, and growth in family education. Love should not only be expressed in the expectations and plans for the future of the child but also in the care and support for the child's current life. Parents should learn to let go, give their children enough trust and support, and let them develop their character and ability in free exploration. Only by achieving the balance of love and expectation can people promote the healthy growth of children. In family education, love and expectation need to find a balance, too much love and high expectations may become a burden for children. With the continuous progress of society and the renewal of educational concepts, family education will pay more attention to children's individual development and mental health in the future. Parents should gradually get rid of the bondage of exam-oriented education, establish scientific educational concepts and methods, and pay attention to the overall development and comprehensive quality improvement of children.

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