

## Thoughts on Survival Education under the Background of Artificial Intelligence

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**Abstract:** With the rapid development of artificial intelligence technology, machines will replace most of human work. In this background, it is necessary to talk about survival education. Because survival education is not just a question of how to live, it also involves exploring the necessity, meaning and value of survival.

Jerry Kaplan, a professor of artificial intelligence and ethics at Stanford University, points out in his book *The Age of Artificial Intelligence*: The arrival of the intelligent age will bring two catastrophic impacts on human society: continuous unemployment and the growing gap between the rich and the poor[1]. In 2017, Tesla CEO Musk said at the World Government Summit in Dubai that humanity will become useless in an era when artificial intelligence is popular. These remarks seem sensational, but the fact that some areas of work are being replaced by robots is an indisputable fact. In 2016, Foxconn, the leader of manufacturing companies, laid off workers at the Kunshan factory, and the number of layoffs was close to 60,000. The workload of 60,000 people was completed by more than 40,000 robots. According to the BBC, an insurance company in Japan cancelled more than 30 employees in 2017 and replaced it with an artificial intelligence system that automatically calculated the amount of insurance. It is expected that work efficiency will increase by 30% and labor costs will save \$1.2 million. In this context, the discussion of survival education is necessary. Because survival education explores not only how to live, but also the existence of human beings, that is, the necessity and significance and value of solving the problem.

### 1. The Meaning of "Survival"

From the interpretation of the word "survival" in "Ci Hai": "1. live; 2. refers to the living person; 3. exist; 4. life", 1, 2 and 4 explain the "survival" more attention is paid to the survival of a living individual, which has life as the most important feature; 3 the interpretation of "survival" rises to the highest level of survival - "existence". The interpretation of "existence" in "Ci Hai" is "1. refers to things that continually occupy time and space; in fact; 2. refers to various things or phenomena; 3. philosophically means not shifting from human consciousness the objective world; 4. refers to behaviors". From the above explanation combined with Heidegger's "survival theory - ontology", can be understood in this way, the "existence" of human beings is based on the basis of survival.

From the above explanation, it can be argued that human survival mainly involves two levels. One is how to survive, that is, the "survival" that we usually understand; on the other hand, why is for living, that is, looking for meaning and value of survival, that is, the highest level of survival "existence". Human beings have more discussion about the "survival" of the level that the study of survival skills. However, the another level of "survival", that is, "existence" is less discussed, primarily philosophers pay attention to this level of discussion. They expounded the existence and value of "human" in the field of philosophy. Zhang Shuguang wrote in his book *The Philosophy of*

Survival - Towards the Real Existence": "survival" is not simply referring to "survival of life" but to "existence based on living ", meaning that "survival" is a strive to grasp the true reflection or reflective concept of human existence[2].

Since the industrial revolution, human beings have carry out constantly various "destructive" activities in order to survive and meet the ever-expanding needs of mankind. In modern society, these activities have led to human beings facing increasingly serious problems, such as the deteriorating ecological environment, the depletion of natural resources, the destruction and division of terrorism, etc. These survival dilemmas seriously restrict the survival and development of human beings. On the one hand, in this dilemma, most people think about how to living or living better on material level. They are less likely to think about the meaning and value of survival. On the other hand, it is precisely because human beings do not face the question of the meaning and value of human existence that human beings are deeply trapped in this predicament and cannot extricate themselves. How to resolve this dilemma? Professor Shi Zhongying mentioned in his book "Philosophy of Education" that due to the existence of "absoluteness", "intentionality", "culturality", "temporality" and "uniqueness", human beings exist as human beings. Therefore, there are some basic problems that exist as human beings, such as "death," "slavery," "limited," "lonely," and "self-identity." These problems can be expressed in different forms at different ages of different people. Only by systematically and deeply thinking about these existing problems can we get rid of the troubles caused by people, and then it will not cause people who are bored, empty, alive, meaningless, etc., and hurt themselves to hurt others [3]. Therefore, exploring the meaning and value of survival is an important way to solve the dilemma of human beings.

With the continuous development of human civilization, people's understanding and awakening of "self" and the understanding of "survival" began to rise to explore the meaning of survival, but this understanding and awakening is only a few people's understanding and awakening, it has not penetrate into everyone's consciousness.

## **2. The Thinking of Survival Education under the Background of Artificial Intelligence Development**

### **2.1 Current Status of Survival Education.**

How can we make most people or everyone realize that "the existence of human beings needs the wisdom of survival, and only by reaching the search for the meaning of existence can human beings truly grasp their destiny?" Fundamentally, depends on education, because education is an indispensable part of any country and nation. Only education can let people know what is good and what is evil. However, looking at modern education, we can easily find that although human beings have been in serious problems, such as the deterioration of natural ecology and local wars, education only pay attentions to the learning of knowledge and skills. This is because since the industrial revolution in Europe, education has been used as a tool and means to a large extent, and it can be used to cultivate workers who conform to industrial society. Modern and contemporary education has still followed the educational goals and educational models of the industrial revolution era. The purpose of education is to make learner to acquire the skills to survive. It can be said that it is because the modern education pays too much attention to the teaching of survival skills and neglects the education of the meaning of existence, which leads to the people to their living environment is being in a state of indifference or being overwhelmed.

With the advent of the information age and the emergence of various new technologies, the educational system established in the industrial era for the purpose of obtaining material life has begun to expose its limitations. It has been unable to adapt to the development of society. Firstly, with the rapid development of information technology and artificial intelligence, technology has presented challenges to human beings. Especially after the emergence of artificial intelligence, even if some people have mastered certain survival skills through education, but when intelligent robots replace the work that these people can do, their survival still will be threatened: when work is replaced, how do these people to alive and living with dignity? Secondly, under the industrial

system, human beings' unrestricted natural demand and the formation of consumerism culture dominated by "consumption first" make human survival face more and more difficulties and challenges. How to solve these problems? In fact, more than forty years ago, the UNESCO International Commission for Education Development recognized early the shortcomings of the education system in the industrial age, and in 1972 released the report "Learning to Survive - Today and Tomorrow of the Education World." In this report, it discusses the challenges and main trends facing education in today's world. It is believed that only a comprehensive lifelong education can cultivate perfect people, and this lifelong learning concept formed under lifelong education will help people to form a The evolving body of knowledge - "learn to survive." Judging from the report repeated emphasis on the purpose of education (that is, the well-perfected people), "learning to survive" means not only having the knowledge and skills to survive, but also understanding the meaning of existence and the value of survival[4]. After the publication of this report, survival education began to become a hot issue in educational work and research. So what is survival education? Survival education is to enable learners to survive and develop in a complex and ever-changing environment, educators should carry out a series of survival-related educational activities and social practice with purpose and plan, in order to enable learners to grasp the knowledge and skills of survival, cultivate their ability to survive, awaken their sense of survival and establish a concept of survival[5]. However, looking at the survival education in China, because of its late study of theoretical research and practice, and the utilitarianism derived from the examination-oriented education, the survival education mainly stays in the education of survival knowledge and skills, while ignoring the education which meaning and value of survival.

## **2.2 What Kind of Survival Education is Needed in the Background of the Development of "Artificial Intelligence".**

The rapid development of artificial intelligence technology makes most people who survive on survival skills face severe survival difficulties and challenges. It is especially important to explore the meaning of human existence in this background. Everyone should have an awakening to explore the meaning of existence, and to make everyone aware of it, as mentioned above, education will play a very important role. In education, although the role of family education and social education is very important, there is no doubt that school education occupies a more important position in education. Therefore, on the basis of teaching survival knowledge and skills, school education should explore the meaning of human beings as "people" and the meaning of "survival" of people, and find ways to solve human dilemmas. Then, in the current rapid development of artificial intelligence and other technologies, how should school education pay attention to people's survival education?

First of all, survival education must be clear that human beings is a rational survival. Human existence activities have a certain purpose. In this kind of activities, tool rationality and purpose rationality of human are included. It can be said that tool rationality is the survival of a means of survival, while the purpose rationality is the survival of the meaning of survival. In the era of artificial intelligence, science and technology are an important means to promote social development and meet human needs. From this point of view, tool rationality is also scientific and technological rationality. When people's material needs are met, they will put the needs of development and the needs of the spirit in a prominent position. Therefore, tool rationality and purpose rationality are unified. On the one hand, tool rationality plays a huge role in promoting the realization of purpose rationality. On the other hand, purpose rationality plays a guiding and restricting role in tool rationality[6]. When the relationship between tool rationality and purpose rationality is clarified, the relationship between technology and human development must be handled in education and teaching. The emergence of advanced technologies such as artificial intelligence, big data technology, and virtual reality technology promotes the faster development of human society on the one hand, and brings more confusion and thinking to human beings on the other hand, enabling humans to re-examine their existence. In education and teaching, we can't just use these technologies to promote teaching or simply teach these technologies. At the same time,

we should also think and explore together with students how do these technologies affect human existence and guide student to think with meaning and value to human existence.

Secondly, survival education should enable learners to have the ability of lifelong learning. In the information age, the update of knowledge is getting faster and faster, the knowledge and skills learned by the school alone have become increasingly unable to meet the long-term needs of students. Therefore, survival education is not only to enable students to learn the knowledge and ability to earn a living in school education, but also to enable them to have the continual ability to survive. The prerequisite for this ability is that students must have the ability to learn for life. How to make students to acquire the ability to learn for life? That is to teach students how to learn. For a long time, our education has paid more attention to what students have learned, but has paid little attention to how they learned. In today's fast-developing society, if people do not have the ability of continue learning, then these people will be abandoned by the times. Therefore, survival education should teach students how to learn in order to acquire ability of lifelong learning.

Finally, survival education should return to the essence of education. The rapid development of artificial intelligence may cause some people to lose their jobs, and those who lose their jobs will deny their existence under pressure. This surface seems to be unable to keep up with the phenomenon of survival of the fittest in social development, but behind this phenomenon is actually the result of survival education that deviates from the essence of education. For a long time, the survival education of primary and secondary schools in China is mainly reflected in one or several courses. In these courses, some of the knowledge and skills of survival are mainly taught, such as how to escape in case of fire, and safety when going out to travel. Survival education in universities is mainly reflected in the study of professional knowledge and skills. These knowledge and abilities are indeed necessary for human survival, but this should not be the whole of survival education. The essence of education is to cultivate a well-perfected person. The goal of survival education is actually consistent with the essence of education. To develop a perfect person, it is impossible achieved to rely on learning of one or several survival skills courses or systems of expertise and skills. Therefore, survival education should be infiltrated into every course and various practical activities, so that students can fully understand and feel the connotation of survival, and thus have a clearer understanding of their own meaning and value of survival. This has a significant influence on the improvement of their personality.

### 3. The Conclusion

There are two levels of survival involved. The first level explores the “how to alive” and the second level explores the meaning and value of “living”. The first level generally only refers to the specific way of existence of the person, and the second level relates to the meaning and value of the existence of the person. In a person's life, whenever people touch and think about problems of meaning and value of survival, they will be more beneficial to the understanding and solution of survival problems. The deep goal of "survival education" is "existence education", but the realization of this goal has many resistances in today's more impetuous and utilitarian society. But no matter how big the resistance is, we should pay attention to the significance and value of human existence, which is very important for individuals and society. Especially in the current rapid development of artificial intelligence, we should pay more attention to the deepest level of survival education than ever before.

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