

Reconstruction of the Teacher-student Relationship in Chinese Universities in Internet-era

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Abstract. The teacher-student relationship is the core of the education process. In internet era, the student-teacher relationship emerged some problems, which seriously affect the growth of college students. This paper investigates and analyzes these problems and its causes in teacher-student relationships in Chinese universities in the Internet era. And the ways to solve these problem are put forward. The paper thinks education authorities, teachers and students need to make joint efforts to reconstruct the good teacher-student relationships. At first, education authorities should create a education system conducive to improving teacher-student relationship. At second, teachers should attempt to establish a "teacher-student learning community" with the students. At third, teachers and students should make full use of internet technology to build the diversified communication channels.

1. Introduction

The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) thinks that teacher-student relationship is the core of the education process.[1] Research has shown that the teacher-student relationship is vital to improve student motivation.[2][3]. It influences on student's academic achievement, emotional and social development, basic psychological needs, engagement, value, investment of students in their studies and growth.[4][5][6] And good student-teacher relationships also can increase teachers' job satisfaction [7], ease their stress at work [8], reduce teachers burnout, enhance work passion and augment their work hours and career commitments.[8][9]

In internet era, intellectual authority position of teacher is on the wane, the student-teacher relationship emerged some new feature and problems.[10][11] The existing researches gave more attentions on problems of student-teacher relationship in internet era in middle and primary school, [12][13][14] but few attention on student-teacher relationship in universities. This paper analyzed problem of student-teacher relationship in universities at present and put forward reconstruction method.

2. The New Problem of Teacher-Student Relationship in Universities in internet Era

The rapid development of the Internet had led to a geometric growth of knowledge available on the Internet. The students in universities acquire knowledge not only from the teachers, but also from the internet. The traditional teacher-centered teaching activities are gradually replaced by student-centered ones. The status and function of teachers have changed in teaching activities, which led to new problem in teacher-student relationship.

(1) Difficult to communicate between students and teachers

Firstly, There is a lack of time and space for communication between teachers and students. In the classroom, there are few communication under the mode of the teachers speaking and the students listening. A questionnaire survey of 420 undergraduate students in four universities in China showed that 64.2% of the students reported no communication with teachers in class. The expansion of university enrollment led to low teacher-student ratio. And Mobile classrooms, large class sizes and multiple campuses in colleges and universities lead to lack of atmosphere of teacher-student communication. For teachers under the great pressure of teaching and research, it also is very difficult to set aside time and energy to communicate with students outside of class. Our questionnaire survey showed 75.3% of the students reported no communication with teachers outside of class.

Secondly, in the Internet age, Social Networking Sites have changed the way teachers and student communicate. Wechat and QQ are the most popular platform in China. Face to face communication between teacher and student is becoming less and less. Good communication depends not only on language, but also on many things beyond language such as Facial expressions and posture. Online communication is convenient but not profound.

Thirdly, differences style of language expression between teachers and students lead to difficult communication. The contemporary college students who grew up with the development of network technology often use network language in communication. Generally speaking, network language is concise, exaggerated and even contrary to the traditional meaning. Older teachers are not familiar with Internet language, which lead to communication with students difficulty.

(2) indifferent teacher-student relationship

With the development of information technology, college students can acquire knowledge from more channels. The scarcity of knowledge from teachers disappears, and the attraction of teachers to students gradually dissipates. The convenience and the infinite possibility of information acquisition from the Internet eliminate the monopoly right of teachers on knowledge and the control right to students' learning. Our questionnaire survey showed 46.7% college students insisted the Internet is more helpful to learning than teachers. 51.2% college students believe

Learning mainly on their own. Teachers are merely organizers and assistants of learning. With the enhancement of consciousness of subject of College students, they are eager for more respect and autonomy. All these challenges the traditional subject status and authority of teachers. The traditional subject-object relationship in the teacher-student relationship is broken. Facing the dual pressure of teaching and scientific research, the teachers have little time to think about teacher-student relationship. Our questionnaire survey showed 35.3% college students believe teachers are irresponsible in classroom teaching. It is inevitable that the teacher-student relationship in universities become indifferent. If teachers still hold the view of teachers' dignity and use marks to suppress students' obedience, the relationship between teachers and students will be tense.

(3) The universal instrumental rationality in the teacher-student relationship

At first, the function of the classroom is alienated. Due to the rich learning resources and diversified learning approaches in the Internet age, students no longer rely solely on teachers to acquire knowledge, classes are a way for students to earn credits. While in the aspect of teacher evaluation, there is the phenomenon of putting more emphasis on scientific research and less on teaching, which lead to low enthusiasm for teaching. The classroom is just a place where teachers earn their pay. Our questionnaire survey showed 44.3% college students think they go to class for credits. And 35.3% of college students think teacher is perfunctory in class.

At second, The trading behavior vulgarizes the teacher-student relationship. Some college students bribe teachers to get good marks, while some teachers use marks to suppress students or gain improper benefits.

(4) lack of trust between teachers and students.

The relationship of mutual trust between teachers and students in universities continues to weaken. Distorted evaluation systems result in teachers spending little time and energy on growth and development of students. When students encounter problems, they seldom communicate with teachers. Our questionnaire survey showed 84.7% college students don't turn to teachers when they have problems.

3. The main causes of the above problems

The causes of the above problems are manifold.

At first, the rapid development of information technology not only changes the traditional teaching and learning methods, but also changes Communication mode between teachers and students. In the Internet age, convenient and fast access to knowledge weakens the authority of teachers.

At second, The imperfection of educational management system and evaluation standard of teaching and learning also affects the relationship between teachers and students. College enrollment expansion and education industrialization have changed the teaching environment of colleges and universities. The performance evaluation standard that emphasizes scientific research over teaching for teachers leads to neglect the improvement of teacher-student relationship.

At third, Multi-campus, mobile classrooms and large classes hinder communication between teachers and students. The old teaching concept and single teaching mode also affect the communication between teachers and students.

At fourth, differences in cultural values between teachers and students leads to difficult communication. The traditional status of "teachers teaching students" is out of balance. And the lack of autonomous adjustment mechanism of teacher-student relationship lead to the alienation of teacher-student relationship.

4. Strategies for improving teacher-student relations in universities in internet-era

Teachers and students are a pair of interdependent contradictions in teaching. The teacher-student relationship in educational activities also is not simple primary - secondary relations. They are more like cooperative symbiosis with co-dependence.[15] To improve teacher-student relationship, teachers and students need to make joint efforts to undertake their own roles and responsibilities. And education authorities also need to change management model in order to create a good environment for improving teacher-student relationship.

(1) Create a education system conducive to improving teacher-student relationship

Education authorities have an unshirkable responsibility to improve the teacher-student relationship. At first, they should reform the teachers evaluation system that overemphasizes scientific research and ignores teaching. At second, they should improve the teacher training system to help teachers promote Ideological and moral cultivation level and communication skills in internet-era. At third, they also can try to launch all kind of activities closely around "harmonious campus culture" to attract teachers and students to join, which can increase the chances of understanding and communication between teachers and students.

(2) Establish a "teacher-student learning community"

Contemporary undergraduates are the generation growing up with the Internet. The majority of them are the only child, which turn out self-centered. They long for equality, understanding and mutual respect. Democracy and equality, respect and trust, communication and collaboration, autonomy and innovation are the characteristics of the new teacher-student relationship in universities[16]. It is increasingly challenged that the teacher-centered teaching model based on knowledge-imparting. Especially, with the development of internet, study action of college students have changed a great deal. They acquire knowledge not only from the classroom, but also from the internet. In some ways, they know even more information than teachers. All these objectively require teachers to change their roles and teaching models. For the better growth of students, It is necessary to establish a teacher-student learning community, in which teacher and student communicate equally and learn from each other.

Firstly, teachers should break the cultural hegemony and establish a student-centered education concept. They need promote ability of self-reflection, admit them not to be all-knowing, and reawaken the curiosity and awe to knowledge.

Secondly, teachers should reform traditional teaching models and take some new teaching models such as the flapping classroom and project-based learning.

Thirdly, teachers need change condescending attitude to students and Create an atmosphere of cooperate learning, common development.

(3) Build the diversified communication platforms between teachers and students

It is difficult to change the situation of multi-campus, mobile classrooms and large classes in China in a short time. But internet technology and good system can help us to overcome these obstacles.

Firstly, email and some Social Networking Software can build a communication platform between teachers and students. Many teacher build wechat or QQ groups in class. By these groups, the teachers can guide the students online after class, and students also can ask teachers and classmates for help at anytime. If the students have some special problems, they can chat with teachers in private after class.

Secondly, tutor and class adviser system also can strengthen the relationship between teachers and students. A tutor is responsible for contacting several students. They can meet on a regular basis and fully communicate each other on some issues.

Thirdly, some new teaching models such as the flapping classroom and project-based teaching also can provide more communication opportunities. Flipped classroom is a new teaching model that makes full use of modern information technology and puts students in a problem-oriented teaching environment. With the help of micro-teaching video, teachers ask students learn new courses in advance on the Internet at home, then teachers and students can talk about learning problems in class. The project-based teaching is a student-centered and teacher-led teaching model, in which the students are divided into different project groups, and under the guidance of the teacher, they work in groups and cooperate to complete the project. It also is called project-based learning or learning by doing. In these new teaching models, teachers and students have more communication opportunities.

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