

The responsibilities and missions of education in the development of human civilization

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Civilization is the fruit of human social development, the sum of material and spiritual wealth accumulated by humanity through long-term production and daily life practices. Since its inception, education has been closely linked to the development of human civilization, serving as the core carrier for its continuity, innovation, dissemination, and elevation. In the new era of in-depth integration and diversified development of human civilization, facing global challenges such as climate change, resource scarcity, cultural barriers, and unbalanced development, re-examining and clarifying the position and mission of education in civilization development is not only a profound return to the essence of education but also an inevitable requirement for achieving the sustainable development of human civilization and building a community with a shared future for mankind. This paper explores the core missions of education in the process of human civilization development from five dimensions: inheriting civilizational achievements, driving innovation, shaping value consensus, promoting exchanges and mutual learning, and responding to the challenges of the times.

Keywords: *education, development of human civilization, mission, inheritance of civilizational achievements, innovation cultivation, sustainable development.*

I. Inheriting civilizational achievements: education as the fundamental guarantee for the continuity of human civilization

In the early stages of human social development, before the invention of writing, education existed in the primitive form of oral transmission and teaching by example. Ancient ancestors passed on survival skills such as hunting, farming, and fishing, as well as spiritual culture including rituals, etiquette, and tribal rules to subsequent generations through face-to-face teaching. These civilizational achievements were thus maintained within tribes, becoming the foundation for the germination and development of human civilization. With the invention of writing and the advancement of writing carriers, educational forms gradually enriched: from the «education in Xiang and Xu» during the Shang and Zhou dynasties to the rise of private schools in the Warring States period, and from the academic education in ancient Greece to the grammar schools in ancient Rome, education began to serve as a systematic means of cultural dissemination, organizing and imparting the classic culture, philosophical ideas, and scientific knowledge of various ethnic groups.

In modern society, the establishment and improvement of the school education system have brought an unprecedented increase in the efficiency and scope of civilizational inheritance. The systematic curriculum design from primary school to university transmits the accumulated knowledge systems of natural sciences, social sciences, humanities, and arts to educators in accordance with cognitive laws, enabling every social member to master the basic achievements of human civilization during basic education and conduct in-depth research on the civilizational achievements of a specific field during higher

education [1]. At the same time, the construction of educational carriers such as libraries, museums, and archives, as well as the organization of educational resources such as textbooks and documentary materials, have allowed civilizational achievements to be preserved in a systematic and standardized manner, avoiding civilizational discontinuity caused by historical changes, natural disasters, and other factors.

The inheritance of civilizational achievements through education is not a simple «copy and paste», but involves selection, organization, and interpretation in the process of transmission. In the course of human civilization development, while accumulating outstanding achievements that conform to the laws of human development and promote social progress, there are also some backward and decadent contents [2]. As the core carrier of civilizational inheritance, education plays an important role in «absorbing the essence and discarding the dregs». Through the research and interpretation of civilizational achievements, educators pass on excellent cultural traditions, scientific knowledge, and value concepts to learners, abandoning backward ideological concepts and behavioral norms, and ensuring that the inheritance of civilization always maintains a positive development trend [3]

II. Cultivating innovative capabilities: education as the core driver for the upgrade of human civilization

The cultivation of innovative capabilities through education is first reflected in the transmission and accumulation of knowledge. Innovation is not a castle in the air, but is built on a solid foundation of knowledge. Without mastering and understanding existing civilizational achievements, innovation is impossible. Through systematic knowledge transmission, education enables learners to grasp the basic theories and research methods in fields such as natural sciences, social sciences, humanities, and arts, understand the current development status and cutting-edge issues of a specific field, and lay a solid knowledge foundation for innovation.

The cultivation of innovative capabilities through education is a gradual and long-term process. From the enlightenment of innovative awareness in basic education to the cultivation of innovative capabilities in higher education, and then to the improvement of innovative capabilities in lifelong education, education runs through the entire process of innovative capability cultivation [4]. Precisely because of this mission of education, humanity can constantly break through its own cognitive limitations, promote the progress of science and technology, the transformation of production methods, and the improvement of social systems, allowing human civilization to continuously radiate new vitality and vitality in innovation and realize continuous upgrading from low-level to high-level and from traditional to modern [5].

III. Shaping value consensus: education as the spiritual bond for the cohesion of human civilization

The development of human civilization requires not only material progress but also spiritual guidance; it requires not only respecting the uniqueness of civilizations of various ethnic groups but also building a common human value pursuit [6]. Value consensus is the spiritual foundation for human society to unite forces and develop together, and education is the core approach to shaping value consensus. By cultivating individuals' correct values, uniting the common national spirit, and building common human values, education becomes the spiritual bond for the cohesion of human civilization, providing a strong spiritual driving force for the development of civilization [7].

From an individual perspective, education is an important means of shaping individual values. An individual's values are not innate but gradually formed under the influence of acquired education and the environment. Through various contents such as moral education, aesthetic education, legal education, and life education, education guides individuals to establish correct worldviews, outlooks on life, and values, enabling them to distinguish truth, goodness, and beauty from falsehood, evil, and ugliness, and to understand respect for others, care for society, and reverence for nature.

From a national perspective, education is an important approach to building a core social value system and uniting national development forces. The core social value system is the spiritual banner of a country and an important spiritual support for national development and social progress [8]. By integrating the core social value system into the entire process of education and teaching, education allows the core social value concepts to deeply take root in the hearts of the people, becoming the common value pursuit of all social members, and thus uniting the spiritual synergy for national development.

IV. Promoting exchanges and mutual learning: education as an important bridge for the integration of human civilization

The development of human civilization has never been the isolated development of a single civilization, but a process of mutual exchange, mutual learning, and integration between different civilizations. From the ancient Silk Road to modern economic globalization, and from Zheng He's voyages to the Western Seas to the discovery of new sea routes, exchanges and mutual learning between different civilizations have promoted the common development of human civilization [9]. As the core carrier of cultural dissemination, education is an important bridge for promoting exchanges and mutual learning between different civilizations. Through educational dissemination and exchange, the achievements of different civilizations are mutually spread and learned from, enabling different civilizations to understand each other in dialogue and develop together in integration, thus promoting the formation of a sound pattern of diversified coexistence and harmonious development of human civilization.

The promotion of exchanges and mutual learning between civilizations through education is first reflected in cultural dissemination and exchange. Education is the most effective and long-lasting way of cultural dissemination.

Through the dissemination by educators and the learning by learners, the cultural achievements of different civilizations can cross geographical and ethnic boundaries, spreading and exchanging worldwide. In ancient times, Zhang Qian's mission to the Western Regions opened up the Silk Road, which not only promoted the exchange of material culture between China and foreign countries but also the exchange of educational culture. Chinese Confucian culture, papermaking technology, printing technology, etc., were introduced to the Western Regions and Europe through the Silk Road, while Buddhism, astronomy, mathematics from Europe were introduced to China, promoting the exchange and integration between Chinese and Western civilizations; Japanese envoys to the Tang Dynasty came to China to learn China's political system, educational system, cultural and artistic achievements, and brought Chinese civilizational achievements back to Japan, promoting the Taika Reform and the development of Japanese civilization; Western missionaries came to China, bringing advanced natural and social sciences from the West, and promoting the development of modern Chinese education and the modern transformation of Chinese civilization.

The promotion of exchanges and mutual learning between civilizations through education is not a simple cultural transplantation and copying, but the mutual understanding, mutual learning, and integration of different civilizations on the basis of respecting their differences. Thanks to this mission of education, the barriers and prejudices between different civilizations are gradually eliminated, and the achievements of different civilizations are mutually spread and absorbed, promoting the formation of a sound pattern of diversified coexistence and harmonious development of human civilization, and enabling human civilization to achieve common progress in exchanges and mutual learning.

V. Responding to the challenges of the times: education as the key support for the sustainable development of human civilization

At present, the development of human civilization has entered a new era full of opportunities and challenges. The in-depth development of economic globalization has promoted the in-depth integration of human civilization, and the rapid development of the scientific and technological revolution has driven the rapid upgrading of human civilization. However, at the same time, human civilization is also facing a series of global challenges: extreme weather caused by climate change, development difficulties brought about by resource scarcity, social conflicts triggered by the wealth gap, humanitarian crises caused by regional conflicts, ethical issues arising from the development of artificial intelligence, etc. [10]. The solution to these challenges is inseparable from the joint efforts of all mankind. As the core force driving human development, education is the key support for responding to the challenges of the times and promoting the sustainable development of human civilization. By cultivating the concept of sustainable development, improving humanity's ability to respond to challenges, and promoting global cooperation and governance, education

becomes an important guarantee for the sustainable development of human civilization.

The response of education to the challenges of the times is an important manifestation of education adapting to the development of the times and highlighting its own value. By cultivating the concept of sustainable development, improving humanity's ability to respond to challenges, promoting global cooperation and governance, and advancing social equity and balanced development, education becomes the key support for responding to the challenges of the times and promoting the sustainable development of human civilization, enabling human civilization to continuously develop in the face of challenges and make progress in overcoming difficulties.

VI. The dialectical relationship between education and the development of human civilization

Through the analysis of the five core missions of education in the development of human civilization, we can clearly see that there is a complementary and dialectically unified relationship between education and the development of human civilization. The two interact with and promote each other, jointly forming the core driving force for the development of human society.

At the same time, the dialectical relationship between education and the development of human civilization is also reflected in their mutual constraints. If the development of education lags behind the needs of civilization development, with outdated educational content, rigid educational methods, and low educational quality, it will restrict the development of human civilization, leading to a lack of motivation and support for civilization development; if the development of civilization lags behind the development of education, with insufficient civilizational achievements and unclear development needs, it will lead to a lack of content and direction for the development of education, making education a «tree without roots and water without a source». Therefore, education and the development of human civilization must maintain synchronous resonance. Education must keep up with the pace of civilization development, constantly adjust its own development strategy, and adapt to the needs of civilization development; civilization development must provide support and guarantee for the development of education, promoting the continuous innovation and development of education.

VII. Conclusion

As a unique practical activity of human society, education has shouldered the core responsibilities and missions of promoting the development of human civilization since its birth. In the long process of the development of human civilization, education has always been the fundamental guarantee for the continuity of civilization, the core driving force for its upgrading, the spiritual bond for its cohesion, the important bridge for its integration, and the key support for its sustainable development. Through inheriting civilizational achievements, cultivating innovative capabilities, shaping value consensus, promoting

exchanges and mutual learning, and responding to the challenges of the times, education has driven human civilization to move from ignorance to enlightenment, from dispersion to integration, and from tradition to modernity.

The mission of education originates from the needs of civilization development and points to the bright vision of the future of mankind. Only by always adhering to the essence of education, fulfilling the responsibilities and missions of education in the development of human civilization, and continuously promoting the reform and innovation of education, can education better serve human development and civilization progress, enabling human civilization to cross mountains and seas, be passed down from generation to generation, break through challenges, develop continuously, and move towards a brighter, more inclusive, fair, and sustainable future. This is precisely the eternal and irreplaceable value and significance of education in the process of the development of human civilization.

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Миссия образования в развитии человеческой цивилизации

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Цивилизация – это плод человеческого социального развития, сумма материальных и духовных богатств, накопленных человечеством благодаря долгосрочному производству и повседневной жизни. С момента своего зарождения образование тесно связано с развитием человеческой цивилизации, выступая в качестве основного носителя её преемственности, инноваций, распространения и совершенствования. В новую эпоху глубокой интеграции и диверсифицированного развития человеческой цивилизации, сталкиваясь с глобальными вызовами, такими как изменение климата, дефицит ресурсов, культурные барьеры и несбалансированное развитие, переосмысление и уточнение положения и миссии образования в развитии цивилизации является не только глубоким возвращением к сути образования, но и неизбежным требованием для достижения устойчивого развития человеческой цивилизации и построения сообщества с общим будущим для человечества. В данной статье рассматриваются основные миссии образования в процессе развития человеческой цивилизации в пяти измерениях: наследование цивилизационных достижений, стимулирование инноваций, формирование ценностного консенсуса, содействие обмену и взаимному обучению, а также реагирование на вызовы времени.

Ключевые слова: образование, развитие человеческой цивилизации, миссия, наследование достижений цивилизации, культивирование инноваций, устойчивое развитие.

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