

A study on the current situation and trend of college students' love in China

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ABSTRACT: With regard to the incorrect love mentality of contemporary college students in China, the author not only elaborates measures of guiding students to form a healthy view of love in different aspects, such as strengthening college students' sexual health education, carrying out campus cultural activities, enriching campus life, reinforcing the construction of school rules and disciplines, restraining and managing students' behaviors, etc., but also analyzes the development trend of college students' view of love in China.

Keywords: love mentality; college students; view of love

College students' view of love in China is under the influence of the traditional Chinese view of love as well as modern civilization. College students are still imperfect in terms of view of love, view of value and view of life. Therefore, colleges should not only cultivate students as professional but also pay attention to the development of their three views. As for college students in the middle and later stage of puberty, it is affected by themselves and schools together that how to form a healthy view of love.

1 CHARACTERISTICS OF CONTEMPORARY COLLEGE STUDENTS' LOVE

Thirsting for knowledge and ideals, contemporary college students in the specific environment of campus have their own characteristics in terms of view of life and view of value. Their view of love is romantic and diversified. College students' love is changeable and dependent.

1.1 *The characteristic of being romantic*

Contemporary college students are pure, ignorant and rarely influenced by the society. Their view of love is pure as well. College students' love is dreamlike. They do not have to worry about the hardship of life in this period of time, so their love partners have features

of the spiritual level that deviate from the material level. College students, who are easily influenced by the romanticism of love, tend to pay attention to characters, hobbies and ideals of partners. This characteristic of being romantic, however, keeps college students' view of love away from the pressure of life and makes them lack responsibility, leading to breaking up easily.

1.2 *The characteristics of being diversified*

The characteristics of college students' love of being diversified do not mean polyamory. It means that a pair of lovers, apart from each other, may have the tendency of unrequited love for others, which is not open. Many college students are eager to have more love experience. This characteristic of being diversified has something to do with the immaturity of college students' mentality and responsibility. So, it needs to be carefully treated. Diversified relationships in college students' love include the unrequited love relationship, the same table relationship, the love at first sight relationship, the online dating relationship, the working relationship, and the cohabitation relationship. Incidence rates and success rates of different relationships are presented in Figure 1.

1.3 *The nature of being changeable*

College students' love is changeable. They are more likely to be impulsive and irrational in love due to

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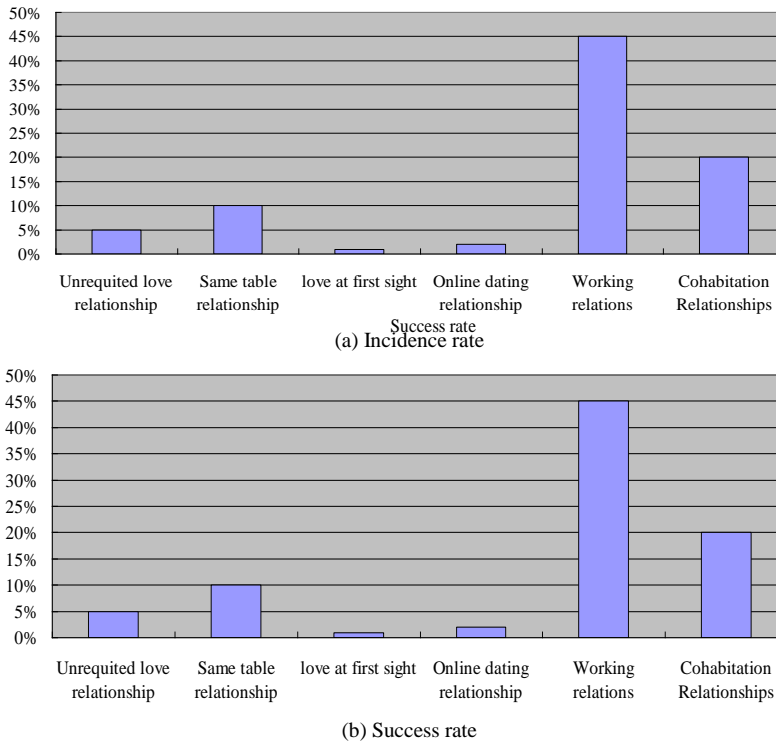


Figure 1. Incidence and success rates of different relationships of college students' love

their shallow experience of life. This kind of passing love is romantic yet fragile. On the one hand, contradictions and frictions cannot be solved properly, so the relationship of the two is shaken as well. On the other hand, real life is a main factor that determines whether college students' love lasts long or not. Many couples finally go their separate ways under the double pressure of family and work.

1.4 The nature of being dependent

Tasting the sweetness of love for the first time, college students tend to be dependent in love. Both sides become more and more dependent on each other. This kind of pure love also depends on material and economic basis provided by two families.

2 DEVELOPING TREND OF COLLEGE STUDENTS' LOVE IN CHINA

Contemporary college students' view of love basically has the following developing trends:

(1) The rapid development of network technology not only brings convenience for students' life but also severely influences college students' mental health in love. There are plenty of people who have online dating relationships through the network. Network platforms like online games have become places of tem-

porary virtual love based on common interests. This kind of relationship, of course, cannot be totally repudiated. Network is a double-edged sword, which brings good development way and opportunity to education and creates new prospects on the one hand and causes serious threats to students' mental health of love on the other hand. College students should be vigilant at all times.

(2) Influenced by traditional culture, college students still pay attention to choosing a mate who has both ability and character. As a group of high quality, college student cares about whether his/her partner has moral defects in spite of their pursuit of appearance. Normally, a boy tends to care about whether his mate is gentle and decent while a girl tends to care about whether her mate has responsibility and fidelity.

(3) Ethical standards for sex will be reduced. In this open society, sex education comes into people's sight gradually. College students, as a young group, are more easily to release themselves. They even get used to the topic of homosexual.

(4) The consciousness of marriage is becoming weaker. The original intention of college students' love is never to get married. College students, who have not stepped into the society, still rely on their family. They have weak consciousness about responsibility or are easily influenced by working pressures from the society, so many of them choose to avoid marriage and breeding.

3 MISUNDERSTANDINGS OF COLLEGE STUDENTS' LOVE MENTALITY

3.1 *Misunderstandings of love mentality*

(1) The mentality of comparing with others

With the rapid development of modern life, luxuries come into people's daily life. As a group with no income, college students should focus on learning knowledge and reserving experience. However, the daily life of college students is imbalanced due to the gap of family income. Students compare mutually not only in material but also in psychology. Therefore, the view of love, which is correct originally, is affected by the mentality of following others and comparing with others because of vanity. There are also different kinds of campus problems.

(2) The pursuit of external conditions

External conditions of college students' view of love include appearance, stature and material conditions. A healthy view of love has become a view of value measuring appearance and money because of vanity.

3.2 *Immature purpose of college students' love*

(1) To satisfy curiosity

College students are in the stage of life with strong curiosity. Physical and mental development of college students, who are in late adolescence, is still immature. They force themselves to fall in love just because of their physiological curiosity instead of their authentic view of love.

(2) To pursue excitement

College students have got rid of the supervision of their parents and, more importantly, have stepped over the boring learning life in middle schools. In their potential concept, college life should be relaxed and licentious. Most students feel relaxed mentally in pursuing sensory stimulation and distorted sex culture. In addition, complex network information and the concept of "sexual freedom" have made the excessive pursuit of sexual liberation a main reason for heterosexual dating.

(3) To kill time

Most students only aim at getting a higher education in colleges. They have no clear purpose for their ideal and future. A number of students are just muddling along with a negative attitude towards learning due to their dull cultural life. They feel emptiness and loneliness in emotion. So they choose to fall in love so as to kill time or comfort their heart of loneliness. But this kind of love is nothing. They have no emotions as the foundation of love. This blind view of love accounts for a large proportion in college students' view of love.

4 MEASURES OF GUIDING COLLEGE STUDENTS TO HAVE A CORRECT VIEW OF LOVE

Strengthen the education on college students' opinions about love and marriage. Help students to form a healthy mental state. As for the work of school education, lectures of physiology and psychological counseling education can be carried out and optional courses can be opened. A network platform can be set up to reinforce ideological education.

4.1 *Have a healthy view of love*

(1) Help students to have correct ideals by strengthening education. Encourage students to focus on learning;

(2) Help students to know the real meaning of love and strengthen their sense of responsibility. Students should know that love is understanding and giving so as to obtain noble love by improving personal cultivation and shaping a perfect personality;

(3) Help them to learn self-esteem and self-respect. Students should learn to talk gently, avoid rude behaviors, and control their emotion;

(4) Improve the ability of bearing frustration and learn to control emotions rationally. Being able to face emotions and frustrations brought by emotions and knowing to cherish life are important factors for college students who taste the sweetness of love for the first time to set up a correct view of love.

4.2 *Strengthen college students' sexual health education*

College students are full of curiosity for sex due to their mature sexual psychology. It is easily for them to have various psychosexual disorders if college students are not properly educated. There is rarely sex education in traditional Chinese families. Colleges should provide correct guidance and carry out healthy sex education. It reflects the progress and development of social civilization to some extent. In campus environment, major measures include opening courses of sexual knowledge, making propaganda, setting a psychological hot line or psychological activity rooms, introducing talents, and carrying out college students' psychological education practically.

4.3 *Reinforce the construction of school rules and disciplines and restrain and manage students' behaviors*

Create a good academic atmosphere for competitive learning. Behaviors violating school rules and disciplines should be treated seriously and irregularities should never be tolerated. Problems and love issues that occur frequently should be processed comprehensively.

4.4 *Carrying out activities of campus culture to enrich school life*

Extracurricular time of students can be effectively enriched through plentiful activities of campus culture, which keep students away from the view of love brought by incorrect motivations. There are many similarities between ideological and political education and culture. The relation between the two is mutual tolerance and penetration. As the factor reflecting the core value of culture, ideological education of correct view of love can be regarded as a cultural education with campus culture as the support. So, cultural activities not only enrich students' campus life but also spread a healthy view of love for college students.

5 IMPORTANCE OF HAVING A CORRECT VIEW OF LOVE FOR COLLEGE STUDENTS

(1) It is quite necessary to have a correct view of love from the perspective of students' future life

Love not only encourages both sides to make concerted efforts and share but also makes people depressed. It has a huge influence on college students in adolescence. University campus is a place where talents are cultivated and personalities are expressed. The view of love not only influences students' jobs in future but also concerns the overall development of college students. Once college students who fall in love have incorrect view of love, both sides will be suffered from troubles and harms.

For college students who will enter the society in near future, sometimes love and career cannot be acquired concurrently. There might be some students change their jobs in order to obtain love. Inappropriate processing of love will bring huge difficulties to their jobs.

(2) It influences the normal order of a campus

College students in love would always have such behaviors as hand-holding, hugging and kissing. These behaviors are not affecting campus harmony. However, the normal order and the learning atmosphere would still be disturbed once such behaviors occur regardless of occasions.

6 CONCLUSION

The education of having a healthy view of love for college students is able to stimulate students' potential, promote people's life and development, and have

a great influence on the current society. It is normal for college students to long for love because they have become adults with mature physiological development and increasingly improved physical functions. Colleges play an important role in guiding students to have a correct view of love as well as a scientific view of world, view of life and view of value so as to overcome negative mentality with a positive attitude towards life. Having correct "three views" is the premise as well as the foundation for college students to have a healthy and harmonious mentality.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

This paper is supported by the project of China Agricultural Science and Education Foundation, "Applied Research on Case Teaching Method of Ideological and Political Theory Course—Take *An Introduction to Mao Zedong Thought and the Theoretical System of Socialism with Chinese Characteristics* as an example" (Project No.: NKJ201503010).

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