

# Interpreting Xi Jinping's Views on the Basic Function of Family Building in Youth Education

Cuimei Du<sup>1</sup> Yonghui Liu<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1,2</sup> School of Marxism, Shandong Technology and Business University, Yantai, Shandong 264005, China

## ABSTRACT

The important exposition of the General Secretary Xi Jinping's views on the basic role of family building in youth education is the development of the Marxist family concept in the new era, which not only inherits the excellent genes of family training, family rules, tutoring and family style in traditional culture, but also carries forward the red family style of the older generation of revolutionaries, providing an important guideline for family building in youth education in the new era, as well as strong spiritual support and action guide for strengthening the construction of party style and clean government.

**Keywords:** Youth education, Family construction, Family education, Moral education, Family style.

## 1. INTRODUCTION

Since the 18th National Congress of the Communist Party of China, General Secretary Xi Jinping has attached great importance to the basic role of family building in youth education, and believes that the family's life support, social functions, and civilized role are irreplaceable.<sup>1</sup> Every family not only bears the burden of educating children to button well, but also bears the responsibility of educating children to cultivate morality and self-cultivation. Only when each family attaches great importance to the basic role of family building in youth education can the young people cultivated take on great responsibilities in the development of the times. This perspective provides new ideas and new perspectives for family building and the role of the family environment in youth education.

## 2. FAMILY IS THE FIRST PLACE FOR YOUTH EDUCATION

As the smallest unit of society, the family is the first place to carry out explicit and implicit education, the first classroom for youth growth, the first school for the formation of correct values and

good behavior habits of young people, and plays a subtle and important role in youth education.

### 2.1 Creating Civilized Families and Guiding Young People to Integrate Family Dreams into the Chinese Dream

The country is thousands of families, and the family is the smallest country. "Xiu Qi Zhi Ping" in "The Book of Rites · University" is an important value in traditional Chinese society, reflecting the cultural essence of the isomorphism of home and country in traditional thought, and the idea of "self-cultivation and family construction" repeatedly emphasizes the importance of family construction to the growth of young people. "When a family is benevolent, a country will also rise benevolence; A family of comity, a country will also rise comity" also reflect the important position of family building in social construction and national development. Therefore, the family is crucial to educating young people to build the Chinese dream.

Youth is the future of the family and the country, and the realization of the individual, family and Chinese dreams is organically unified. On the one hand, the security and stability of the country cannot be separated from the peaceful life and contentment of the family, and the promotion of spiritual civilization construction cannot be

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1. Xi Jinping, Speech at Meeting with the First National Civilized Family Representative, Beijing: People's Publishing House, 2016, p2.

separated from the creation of civilized families. The family dream has become a powerful force of the Chinese dream with the momentum of "accumulating small streams into rivers and seas". On the other hand, people's happiness is not an abstract concept, but ultimately implemented in the construction of a happy life in each family unit, and in the continuous satisfaction of people's needs for a better life. The family is an important place to educate young people to closely integrate the family dream with the Chinese dream, and is an important position for cultivating the feelings of family and country. Through the creation of civilized families, it is necessary to fully stimulate the vitality of each family's cells, and educate young people to take the new long march of national rejuvenation, so that the family dream can come true together with the Chinese dream.

## ***2.2 Utilizing the Basic Position of the Family to Cultivate the Core Socialist Values of Youth***

Family is in a fundamental position in various educational environments. Youth education must adhere to the basic principle of "starting from family and starting from children".

There is a necessity to give full play to the emotional characteristics of family education and make good use of the natural advantages of family education. Kinship is the natural link of family education, which has the innate advantage of being ahead of others and the natural characteristics of strong affinity. The integration of family education into daily life will have an impact on the formation and development of young people's values in a quiet way. The parents' generation will form a good family atmosphere to promote the core socialist values by integrating the feelings of family into daily life.

There is also a necessity to give play to the leading characteristics of family education and create a good atmosphere for implicit education. Family education focuses on interaction. "Being sincere and honest can naturally inspire people". Parents' silent words and deeds are the best learning materials for children; Parents' work attitude, life orientation and way of doing things will be imitated by young children; Parents' cognitive level and judgment ability affect children's ideological height, knowledge breadth and realm depth; The recognition and demonstration of socialist core values by parents is directly related to the formation of youth values. Therefore, it is necessary to give

full play to the recessive role of family in cultivating the core values of youth.

## ***2.3 Advocating New Family Concepts and Guiding Young People to Inherit Family Virtues***

Youth is the main force of inheriting family virtues, and family is the main position of inheriting family virtues. By tapping the resources of moral education in traditional culture and carrying it forward in family construction, the long "family" culture will glow with new vitality in the new era; By guiding young people to establish a new family concept, they can inherit family virtues, and promote the construction of civic morality to develop in depth.

First of all, it is a must to fully tap the relevant cultural resources of family virtue. Family is the starting line for moral cultivation and moral practice. It is a glorious tradition of the Chinese nation to attach importance to family education. Confucian moral education thoughts such as "propriety, righteousness, honesty, shame, filial piety, fraternity, loyalty and trust", the home-state isomorphism culture of "the foundation of the world is in the country, the foundation of the country is in the families", the filial piety culture with "filial piety" as the core, and the family education culture of "face to face" are all important ideological sources for carrying out family construction.

Secondly, there is also a must to attach importance to the inheritance and development of family virtues. In the new era, there is a necessity to educate young people to establish a new family concept consistent with socialist morality. Family is an important place to educate young people to inherit family virtues. The traditional family ethics of the Chinese nation, such as "respecting the old and loving the young, loving the wife and husband, being kind to the father, filial piety, brotherhood and brotherhood", "cultivating, reading and inheriting the family, keeping the family industriously and thriftily, and prospering in everything", should be inherited, spread and practiced by the youth. Family education has natural advantages in carrying forward fine virtues, which is related to the construction of civilized homes and social harmony.

Finally, there is also a necessity to vigorously promote the construction of civic morality. At present, the state actively promotes the civil

morality construction project, strives to promote the formation of new customs, points out the direction for the education of young people to inherit family virtues in the new era, attaches importance to family construction, cultivates family virtues, advocates good family customs, and educates young people to be good children of parents and also good young people of the party, encourages young people to attach importance to family responsibilities, and strives to seek harmony for families, send warmth to others, and make contributions to society.

### **3. FAMILY EDUCATION IS THE STARTING POINT OF YOUTH EDUCATION**

Family education is an important part of youth growth. The implementation of family education is highly related to the life development of young people. Together with other forms of education, it determines the growth path of young people.

#### ***3.1 Parents Should Be the First Teacher of Their Children***

"Parents are the first teachers of children",<sup>2</sup> and they play a central role in family education. The young generation is deeply influenced by the family and morally educated, and gradually elevates the rules of conduct contained in family education to the values and moral judgments of the heart. The excellent traditional Chinese culture has a fine tradition of attaching importance to family culture. Stories such as Mencius mother moved three times, Zeng Zi's killing the pig, educating the son to read by painting and calligraphy on the ground, and Yue Fei's mother tattooing, emphasize the important influence of parents' educational ideas and practical behaviors. In the early days of the founding of the People's Republic of China, parents mobilized their children to join the army enthusiastically and "defend the country by resisting the United States and aiding Korea", highlighting the important role of parents in patriotic education; During the period of socialist construction, parents suffered from the separation of flesh and bone, mobilized their children to go to the mountains and countryside, and took part in labor and exercise to build a great country, which reflected the noble sentiment of

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2. Xi Jinping, Speech at Meeting with the First National Civilized Family Representative, Beijing: People's Publishing House, 2016, p4.

parents in the moral education of giving up the small family for everyone.

Xi Jinping has his own personal experience and knowledge about the important role of parents in the education of young people. Xi Jinping's mother, Mrs Qi Xin, often told her children stories about serving the country with fidelity and Yue Fei's mother tattooing. Over time, the germ of patriotism took permanent root in the heart of young Xi Jinping and became a lifelong pursuit. Xi Jinping thus attached particular importance to the role of his mother in family education, "consciously shouldering the responsibility of respecting the elderly, loving the young, educating children and helping them to form a good heart".<sup>3</sup>

#### ***3.2 The Most Important Thing About Family Education Is Moral Education***

Different family education will have different effects on the physical and mental development of young people. According to sociologists, the root causes of many juvenile delinquency are mainly the lack of family education, life education and gratitude education. For example, the sensational murder case of Ma Jiajue, the poisoning case of Lin Senhao, a graduate student of Fudan University School of Medicine, and so on. On the other hand, when summarizing successful experiences, it can be found that many well-known people often mention that parents' words and deeds are the starting point for success.

When talking about what family education mainly teaches, Xi Jinping stressed that moral education is particularly important and crucial, and how to be a person should be put first in family education. The excellent traditional Chinese culture attaches great importance to the moral education of young children. For example, such thoughts as "no one can stand without virtue", "the father will be blamed on raising but not teaching", "love the son, and teach with righteousness", "love without morality, and harm it as appropriate", "love the benevolent", and "learning cannot be done", all reflect the importance that the ancients attached to moral education. Parents and parents have the responsibility and obligation to do a good job in education of good moral character and cultivate the ambition, backbone and confidence of the young generation.

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3. Xi Jinping, Upholding the Basic State Policy of Gender Equality and Giving Full Play to the Great Role of Chinese Women, People's Daily, 1 Nov. 2013.

#### **4. FAMILY STYLE IS AN IMPORTANT PART OF YOUTH EDUCATION**

Family style is the core of family construction, which has a subtle influence on the growth of youth. Family style is not only related to the healthy growth of youth, but also affects the social atmosphere. "Good family style" is the source of establishing correct ideas and forming good moral quality.

##### ***4.1 Carrying Forward the Excellent Traditional Family Precepts and Establishing the New Style of the Times***

The excellent traditional family precepts belong to China's traditional ethical culture and play an important role in educating people in maintaining family stability and family inheritance. However, with the change of history, its important role and status were once ignored. In the new era, under the premise of adhering to cultural confidence, many excellent traditional cultures have been rediscovered and exuded new vitality. While persisting in carrying forward the reasonable part of the traditional family instruction, it is necessary to also strive to combine the new historical development and era conditions to make the family instruction in the new era obtain innovative development. Family instructions in the new era should be based on the basic moral norms of citizens, based on the promotion of family virtues, and guided by the promotion of core values, and strive to build an ethical dimension that is concentric with the call of the party, national development and social needs.

##### ***4.2 Leading Cadres Should Take the Lead in Family Style***

The good morale of society as a whole is the result of the convergence of many good family customs, and accordingly, the establishment of good family customs is also deeply influenced by the social morale, and the two interact with each other. The family style of leading cadres is not a minor or private matter within the family, but a weather vane of the social climate, and is related to the overall situation of strict governance of the party.

General Secretary Xi Jinping has elevated the development of the family style of leading cadres to

a political level in the construction of the party's integrity, stressing that "leading cadres, especially senior cadres, must pay attention to family education and family style".<sup>4</sup> As a result of lax parenting and improper family style, there have been many reports of children's relatives making illegal profits and committing wrongdoings in the name of their parents. For example, Bo Guagua, the son of Bo Xilai, the senior cadre of the Party, Zhou Bin, the son of Zhou Yongkang, Guo Zhenggang, the son of Guo Boxiang, and Ling Gu, the son of Ling Jihua, etc. These corruption cases have caused great losses to the image of the party and the cause of the party. Therefore, leading cadres must "put the construction of family style in an important position, cultivate integrity and keep the family clean"<sup>5</sup>, to set an example for family style construction. At the same time, they should strictly restrict the relatives and children, "incorporate loyalty to the party into the family education and family style construction, and guide the relatives and children to firmly listen to the party and follow the party".<sup>6</sup>

#### **5. CONCLUSION**

In summary, General Secretary Xi Jinping's important statement on the fundamental role of family building in youth education is a development of the Marxist view of the family in a new era, which not only inherits the excellent genes of family precepts, family rules, family education and family ethos in traditional culture, but also carries forward the red family ethos of the older generation of revolutionaries, providing important guidance for family construction in youth education in the new era, and also provides strong spiritual support and action guidance for strengthening the construction of party conduct and clean government.

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