**Right to equal education——Brown v. Board of Education (1954)**

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In the 1950s, under the legal principle of separate but equal，schools were segregated by the race in Topeka, Kansas. This means that white schools can deny admission to blacks, and blacks can only accept lower-quality schools for people of color. The case that will be described next is closely related to this isolation policy. Linda Brown is a student living in Topeka, Kansas. She and her older sister, Terry Lynn, walked a mile to the bus stop every day and caught a ride to Munro Elementary School, an all-black school five miles from their home. Linda Brown tried to get admission into Sumner Elementary School, which was closer to her home, to avoid the hassle of commuting, but was rejected by the Topeka Board of Education because Sumner Elementary School was only for white children. As a result, the Brown family and twelve other local black families in similar situations filed a class action lawsuit in U.S. federal court against the Topeka Board of Education, accusing its racial segregation policy of being unconstitutional.

The claims and grounds of both parties are as follows. The plaintiff argued that the segregated school's rejection of Linda Brown's admissions application violated her right to equality guaranteed by the Fourteenth Amendment of the U.S. Constitution. Even if racially segregated schools appear to be equal in terms of facilities and resources, the substance of segregation appears to the plaintiffs to be an inequality in itself. This situation actually provides black people with inferior treatment compared to white people, oppresses the legitimate rights and interests of black people to a certain extent and violates the spirit of equality in the Constitution. However, the defendant argued that the school did not violate the right to equality based on the separate but equal principle. Although segregation exists, the Topeka Board of Education believe that black schools and white schools provide the same quality of educational resources and facilities. So, the segregation does not mean unequal treatment of black students' education, but maintains harmony between different races. Then, the Topeka Board of Education thought their racially segregated educational policies following the legal precedent of separate but equal were not unconstitutional.

The case was judged by the U.S. Supreme Court on May 17, 1954. The Supreme Court ultimately ruled 9-0 that segregated education policies violated the equal protection rights of the Fourteenth Amendment to the U.S. Constitution. The Fourteenth Amendment and the "separate but equal" principle are important legal basis in this case. During the period when the Fourteenth Amendment was established in 1868 and the "separate but equal" principle was formed in the Plessy case in 1896, public school education was not yet universal, and the background of this case is different from these two legal bases. At the same time, because both the plaintiff and the defendant had different interpretations of the right to equality, the court was unable to determine whether the right to equality in the Fourteenth Amendment covered the issue of public education. Therefore, the court had to give up making a corresponding judgment on this case from the background of the legal basis and focus on education itself.

For society at that time, education had become a very important stage in the social development process. It not only lays a very important foundation for the new generation of young people to enter society in the future, but also cultivates a variety of talents for the progress and development of society. Given that, providing equal education is very important. Also, as we all know, racial segregation itself refers to the separation of people according to different races in daily life, so that various races cannot use public spaces or services. The implementation of racial segregation policies in education has restricted interpersonal interactions with different cultural backgrounds, causing different races to lack understanding and respect for each other. Therefore, the court held that the implementation of racial segregation in education, based on past social history, will be more friendly to the white group and have some adverse effects on the black group. For example, this will not only cause an inferiority complex between black children and white children, affecting their development, but will also cause dissatisfaction among black groups, intensify racial conflicts, and trigger social conflicts and instability. The precedent of separate but equal is no longer applicable in education. Ultimately, the court ruled that racial segregation laws were unconstitutional because they violated the right to equality guaranteed in the Fourteenth Amendment to the U.S. Constitution by depriving black schoolchildren of their right to attend school.

Brown v. Board of Education is a landmark in American history. The verdict marked an important step toward racial equality in the United States. First, the final decision in this case stated that racial segregation violated the right to equality, forcing schools in various states to abolish regulations that admitted students based on racial segregation policies. This gives black students equal access to educational resources and opportunities with white students, makes a huge contribution to the fair distribution of educational resources, and has a great impact on the American education system. Secondly, this case legally overturned the long-standing principle of separate but equal in history, revealing that the principle of separate but equal is essentially an inequality. This encouraged other races to use legal means to safeguard their legitimate rights and interests and avoid being treated unequally, stimulated people's thoughts on equality of all races, and promoted the development of the American civil rights movement. In addition, the decision in this case provided a precedent for any subsequent legal issues of racial segregation. These racial segregation policies may subsequently be repealed as violating the right to equality guaranteed by the Constitution. This not only combats the prejudices inherited from American history, but also promotes the development of an environment of social inclusion and diversity. Finally, since the previous principle of separate but equal was formulated by the government, the verdict of this case just overturned this principle, so it also had a certain impact on the political development of the United States. This case is not only about education, but also about racial equality. Therefore, Brown v. Board of Education prompted the government to pay attention to racial equality. This strengthens the federal government's supervision of states' policies on racial issues and will have a huge impact on future politics that will pay more attention to racial equality issues.