What are Confucius' views on education and how did Confucianism impact Chinese education?

              Confucius is the most well-known name throughout the world. His initiative on human morality, virtue, filial piety, and benevolence are famous and even remarked as the beliefs ever since. His domination and capability in China is the thing that no one can compare since he was named “The Uncrowned King” of pre-imperial China. His teachings, sayings, and philosophies have tremendous power and authority over the hearts and minds of those who followed him. Through his advocacy, Confucius established a social standard known as Confucianism.

          Confucius was an influential philosopher and teacher who could shape the whole education system of China.  To a large extent in Chinese education, Confuciusim is greatly influenced. In his time, Confucius criticized the current culture of China and tried to examine the culture and led a way to the current Chinese culture. According to new research, Confucius highlighted how improving oneself (understanding and fulfilling one’s true nature) is more important than pleading and trying to get others’ recognition (Ng, 2009).

                After the ruling period of the Shang Dynasty in the 16th BC, Chinese education was only for elites and so much discrimination was happening. Anyway, with the promotion and tangible of Confucius’s philosophies, the public education system started to change and education policy for all had appeared. Starting from this time, education became not only for the elites but also for the commoner to become the better true self.  This is the very first fact that Confucius affect Chinese education.

                  His greatest belief is the equality and educability of all people which everyone is teachable and improvable. By the mean of education, it can change the morale of a person and cultivate humanity. Confucius once said the qualities of justice, wisdom, and society are inherent in every individual. External influences are the cause of a person turning to evil. That point is the reason for setting education for all and self-cultivation techniques.  These thoughts of Confucius reflect the current society. Nowadays, humans have been shaped by the environment instead of education. Our culture, origins, religions, and parenting styles shape how we see each other. People are never aware that they have been propaganda. Different perspectives come from different backgrounds.

                  In Asia, patriarchial thoughts and norms have firmly existed and are difficult to break through. There are some religions that elevate these social norms For example, in Burmese culture, foresters recognized women are a stage lower than men. In Buddhism, there is someplace where women are not allowed to participate. According to US news, women are also prohibited from being a monk( to be in Buddhahood) in Thailand although it is where over 90% of the population is Buddhist.  Women can be white-cloaked nuns and are titled as glorified temple housekeepers (Associated Press,2021). Moreover, every discrimination comes from people not from Buddha. That’s where Confucius’s fact makes sense. In search of **Labde,** Dammha has no gender since Buddha describes the woman as having a great role can give birth to the family treasure and taking care of the family. And importantly, both parties in a family are expected to have shared and equal responsibility (2021).

                According to Tan’research on Confucius, “approaching other people with dignity can make people admire and accept you, and approaching parents and children with pity and kindness will make them to loyal to you. (2015)” It is well said! In order to lead someone, full quality is important to have. Before guiding, pointing out, leading, and even criticizing someone else, people should cultivate themselves first. Without qualifying oneself, no one can be a leader and an initiative. Moreover, Confucius also structured society to be ruled by morality, not by law. If everyone has empathy and sympathy toward each other, the world would bring peace. If society can decorate with love and empathy, the law will be just a stand-in. That’s what Confucius aimed education to be. Social stability and development of a country and a society cannot be achieved without education which can base good character and morality.

                Confucius mainly aimed to contribute to good moral character. This main concept of Confucianism has been used as the rudimentary idea of Chinese Education. Confucius once mentioned that the important thing for the emperor is to have a perfectly moral and this can shape his rule as peaceful and benevolent. He claimed that people can be modified and unified with the help of education. The education that he shaped mostly talks about becoming a gentleman(*shi*). If somebody becomes a perfect gentleman(*shi*) with perfect morality, he assumed that he could bring peace and happiness. *Jen* is also important cultivation of education. It is about compassion, love, and benevolence. To feel the true essence of *Jen,* understanding other’s people, trying to love, and treating others with kindness is the key feature. This is all about empathy that everyone should have and Confucius designed his education to cultivate these human moralities.

                  Living in a tough and terrible world, the meaning of justice has slowly fainted. Perhaps that’s why Confucius brought up *Yi* which is about righteousness and justice. In Analects, Confucius said, “The superior man understands righteousness; the petty man understands profits” (Confucius,497 BC).

The assumptions of Confucius’s Education are pretty conventional and easy to understand but difficult to follow. In spite of the fact that these are long-ago philosophies, they remain true and can’t be excluded from basic education. Moreover, Confucius also focused on the filial piety of human beings and that leads the students to obey the elder persons and fulfill the duty of as a generation. These ideations of him have had a great influence on Chinese society and education.

                          In Burmese, people used to say that the purpose of education is to help students to identify what is right and wrong in every aspect of life. Confucius included this fact in his educational transformation journey by teaching the right morality, goodness, rites, and benevolence. In the research of Qijia (2009), Confucius accepted that moral education should be propaganda to children along with intellectual education. From this education, he hoped the student to attain the ability to be respectful and loyal to everyone in any situation and the ability to handle emotions and actions with the mind.

                     Confucius once said, “ a person can’t achieve the required knowledge without studying independently”. That’s why he is against rote and passive learning systems. Most Confucius schools encourage critical thinking and try to motivate students with their own eagerness and motivation to explore more and more. Confucius vitalized the importance of life-long learning so that the new generation can apply the knowledge and skills from school not only in the educational period but also in the real life. That is what education should be and Confucius made a fabulous notice at this point. Nowadays, even the biggest organizations like United Nation is striving to inspire lifelong learning in order to maintain sustainable development throughout the world.  Han and Sull (2010) made a remark about Confucius's education which he wants to teach each and every student according to their characteristics and aptitude so that the student can understand more and this knowledge will guarantee the achievement of educational goals and objectives.

                         As always, Confucius thinks about every aspect of quality education with equality. He expected to give every student an equal chance to study and try to be a human with virtue. As mentioned before, education had been only for elites before Confucius. Nonetheless, the Chinese education system became accessible to all people without exception thanks to Confucius as China currently offers free primary education for six years and three years for secondary school students by ensuring that everyone receives the required education. Additionally, even scholarship systems have appeared abundantly such as Confucius Scholarship, Chinese Government Scholarship, Respective Government Scholarship, and Presidential Scholarship. No matter what one's social standing is, everyone is welcomed in Confucius's school so that the goal he set to make education available to non-aristocrats could be achieved ( Rosemont,1986).

                        The opinions and paths that Confucius made are synergic and must have policies for a lively education. However, Confucianism still has discrimination between females and males. Starting from the value of a family and even in social life, he considered women as a lower social class than men. That’s why he always mentioned the duty of a woman as a good housewife who will have to take care of the whole family without any excuses. He even talked about a very controversial topic about virgins. Whatever he tried to improve the morality of a human, there’re still left-over. It is just like *showing the world and telling women that they can’t have it.* Education builds a brilliant foundation in females for society. Meanwhile, women don’t have a chance to show their creative skills to the world because of the either Chinese assumption of gender or Confucius’s.  Even though he could make quality policies for education, there are some points that shouldn’t obey and follow in today's world. Even though his system should be an inspiration for the future world, there is still missing equality in gender. Even though he made an enormous impact, there is still some point that he should consider.

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