

# Discussion on the “Trinity” Education Based on the Analysis of the Integrity of Primary School Students

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In recent years, with the development of society in China, students have been affected by some non-mainstream cultures during their growth, causing the weakness of morality, and the gradual degradation of honesty. Those phenomena impose serious impacts on the growth and development of children. The study investigated the status of elementary school student credit through questionnaire survey. Based on the result, the causes of the problem were analyzed from different perspectives, and then a “three-in-one” education concept was proposed. The cooperation among family, school, and society was stressed to achieve the comprehensive promotion of the morality and responsibility of primary school students.

*Keywords:* the integrity of primary school students, honesty education, trinity

## Introduction

Honest has been an essential criterion for Chinese since ancient China and is inherited generation by generation. The “honest and trustworthy” was proposed as a moral norm by the “Implementation Outline for Citizen Moral Construction” promulgated in 2001, fully reflecting the importance of integrity. Nearly two decades have passed since then, integrity and integrity education is still hot-spot topics for the society. The perception of primary school students as the foundation of civil moral construction by honesty education is essential for their adaptation to social development.

## Interpretation of the Integrity of Primary School Students

### Interpretation of Integrity

According to the *Analytical Dictionary of Characters Language* by Xu Shen, integrity was defined as the combination of sincerity and trust. Integrity means honesty and trustworthiness (Zhu, 2011). Sincerity stresses loyalty and honesty, when communicating with others, while trust focuses on trusting and being trusted by others. Some scholars believe that the focus of sincerity is on himself/herself, which is a subjective motivation and reflects the inner attitude and quality of themselves. By comparison, trust emphasizes the objective consequence of people’s words and behaviors, which involves their own words and behaviors and the relationship between him/her and others.

### The Importance of the Integrity of Primary School Students

Integrity is inside people’s heart while responsibility is on his/her shoulder, so there is a long way to go. Cheng Yi, an ancient Chinese educator, said that “sincerity causes trustworthy and trust worthy causes sincere”,

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which illustrates that being sincere will become credibility and being credible will become honesty. During the history of China, many celebrities obtained the reputation because of honesty, such as Han Xin (a famous writer and politician of Northern Song Dynasty), Song Qingling (the mother of P. R. China), etc. They have left a good name forever for their integrity, while their integrity is all from childhood. Therefore, integrity is crucial for a person, especially for a growing primary school student. Being integrity, the lamp of life can shine forever. Being integrity, the forest of morality can be evergreen. It is time to attach great importance to the integrity of primary school students.

### Research on the Integrity Status of Primary School Students

#### Survey on the Integrity of Primary School Students

As an educator in China, Kai-Fu Lee mentioned that honesty and integrity was the most lacking quality for Chinese students (Zhu, 2011), which called on paying more attention to the wide phenomena of lack integrity during modern primary school students. Referring to previous studies of the integrity research group, we designed a questionnaire survey named “ranking the following eight behaviors by their importance for you”. We randomly surveyed several local kindergartens and primary schools. According to the statistics on all valid surveys, the rankings of the eight behaviors by children are shown in Table 1.

Table 1

*Rankings of Eight Behaviors According to the Survey Conducted on Children in Kindergartens and Primary Schools in Nanjing, China*

	Trustworthy	Honesty	Courtesy	Kindness	Finicality	Punctuality	Ambiguity	Responsibility
Kindergarten	7	2	1	5	4	6	3	8
Primary school	8	6	1	4	3	5	2	7

It can be found that since implementation of compulsory education in the form of legislation by “the Compulsory Education Law” in China, the national cultural and knowledge quality has been significantly improved. The external qualities, involving politeness, filial piety, and kindness of surveyed children, as a new generation in the 21st century, are under rather high levels. The phenomena derive greatly from the education of knowledgeable parents. However, some internal qualities, such as responsibility, punctuality, and trustworthiness, are under low levels. Apparently, the development of society and economy in China make many children’s behavior deviant.

In addition, comparing the result among students in kindergarten and primary schools, it could be found that the importance of external qualities changed slightly with age. However, the importance of internal qualities, especially the honest and trustworthy, declined obviously.

#### Cause Exploration

Many scholars agree that the integrity lack, involving lying, dishonesty, cheating, and inconsistency, is wide present among primary school students. What is cause of children’s integrity crisis? Both subjective and objective reasons may be present.

The subjective aspect mainly refers to influence by some abnormal values in society. Many multiculturalisms in China, such as “idolater”, “ant family”, and “rich second generation”, which come from the bottom of the society seemingly “non-central” and “non-mainstream”, tend to cause deep shocks and shake the solid foundation established previously (Ni, 2011). Some issues that seem irrelevant, like the difficult employment of college

students, the pressure of working, the high investments of education, and the viewpoint of reading uselessness, can have non-negligible impacts on children. Children may be afraid because of those issues. Russell, a famous British philosopher, considered that “in fact, children’s dishonesty is almost the result of fear” (Yang, 1999).

By comparison, the subtle influence of the society is the main objective reason. With the development of society, the imperfect economic operation, the unsound legal system, the fraud in the market, the corruption in politics, the “black whistle” in sports competitions, etc., which make the dishonesty being penetrated into various fields of the society. School is hardly to be a “paradise”, since the so-called “Red is near, black is near”. Schools and the students will be inevitably affected by the social credibility crisis. In addition, the invasion of network results in the diffusion of network spam and online scams. Many primary school students are addicted to the Internet. They deceive their parents and teachers in order to obtain money and time online, which sounds the alarm for the crisis of integrity.

### The “Trinity Integrity Education” for Primary School Students

When meeting with hundreds of “hands-on” children from all over the country, the former chairman of China, Jiang Zemin (2002) pointed out that “strengthening and improving education is not just a matter of the school and the government, but also needs care and support from family and society. Only improving comprehensive management and multi-pronged approach, forming a kind of social environment, family environment, and school environment that are conducive to the physical and mental development of primary school students, can the younger generation thrive”. Therefore, we proposed the innovative “three-in-one” education concept (as shown in Figure 1), aiming to establish a “monument” of integrity for primary school students through the joint efforts of school, family, and society.

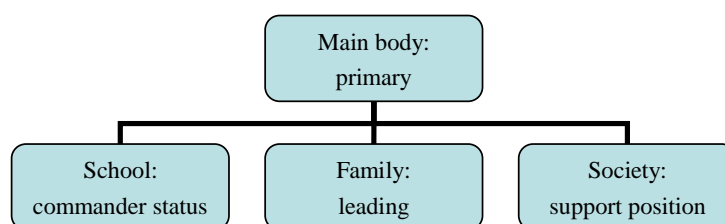


Figure 1. “Trinity” education structure.

### Primary School Students are the Main Body

Chinese educator, Wei Shusheng (2008) once said, “We are in an era of making students become masters of learning”. Forming an education concept of “primary school students oriented”, putting primary school students onto the top status of integrity education, will prompt primary school students to be independent individuals and exert their true potential. Then, they will proactively judge their honest behaviors rather than passive accept. As a result, the correct philosophy values can be established from childhood.

### Family is Dominant in Integrity Education

Ancient Chinese adage said, “One’s habits in childhood will accompany with his whole life”. As children’s first teacher, parents should conduct honesty education in their childhood or even newborn in an easy-to-understand manner. Parents should play a dominant role and guide children to seek truth from facts, distinguish right, wrong and good, evil, and be honest and trustworthy.

**First of all, parents should be a good model for their children.** Do not lie to children and do things

faithfully. Setting as a good example for children by words and behaviors, children will be infected by good characters. Always remember that deception can impose immeasurable negative impacts on children's life.

**Second, parents should teach their children about integrity for wardly.** "To treat people with sincerity and to do things by faith" means to be honest and to do what you have promised. Nowadays, many parents think that "honest people suffer from loss", so they teach their children to be sleek. Ultimately, children's integrity becomes worse. Conducting forward integrity education is critical for children to form a noble moral quality.

**Third, parents should carefully create a good integrity as the family tradition.** "A good family tradition makes descendant virtuous. Honest family tradition can be the fertile ground for children's growth. The development of honesty family tradition depends on long-term edification during family life". Good manners and honest and trustworthy quality are especially easy to be transferred and influenced among each family member, and thus, progress together. Therefore, the honesty family tradition is indispensable for children to form a good quality of integrity.

### **Two Places: The School is in the Position of Commander**

The school as a place for both teaching and educating people occupies a commanding position in the integrity education of primary school students. Therefore, it is very important to take corresponding measures to develop an integral quality of study, teacher, and school. Especially, an excellent integrity quality of teacher is essential for the integrity development of primary school students.

#### **First of All is to Establish of a Good Study Style**

We can take the daily small things as an important way of honesty education. As the proverb said, education has no small matter. Quality is seeing from the slightest prospect, and the spirit is showed from the smallest thing. During the study period, returning timely the borrowing of the classmates, praising the good faith behavior of good deeds, and letting students studying models from each other, will help to cultivate the overall integrity of primary school students.

#### **The Quality of the Teacher Should be Regulated**

As the famous educator Tao Xingzhi wrote in *The Hundred Hours of School Songs*, the basis of thousands of teachings is to teach people seeking truth. The basis of thousands of learning is to be real. Teacher is the leader and practitioner of honesty. The ancients said, "When a ruler's personal conduct is correct, his/her government is effective without giving orders. If his/her personal conduct is not correct, even he/she may give orders, but they will not be followed". Teachers must abide laws and regulations, school disciplines, and the party's education policy. The school's teaching work is consistent, and practically set a good example for primary school students. Teachers should be consistent in their words and deeds, and be the same in the table, without losing faith in primary school students. Otherwise, the educational effect will be greatly reduced.

#### **Final Tips are to Construct the Honest School Spirit**

Integrity school spirit is a kind of environment and atmosphere, which plays a role in cultivating sentiment and virtues for the growth and development of students, and gradually internalizes into the quality of students. In the construction of honesty and school spirit, we must purify and beautify the campus environment, and carry out the moral education work with integrity as the core in the students' learning, the debates and lectures

on the theme of honesty and trust, the organization of classroom activities for fun and education, etc., in order to cultivate the students' sentiments, and to purify the students' minds.

### **Three Places: Society is Supportive Status**

In modern society, any education must be tested by society in order to be sublimated and developed. The integrity education of primary school students is difficult to achieve its essential transformation only by the power of education. It also needs systematic social support projects to improve. Therefore, the integrity education of primary school students cannot ignore the status of society and requires social support.

### **Governments at All Levels Must Lead as Example to Promote Integrity Education**

If people are to be honest and trustworthy, the government must first take the lead in setting a good example, trusting the people and being trusted by the people. From the current situation, the government should adopt measures to strengthen the norms of moral education, vigorously advocate the establishment of the eight major socialist concepts of honor and disgrace, and gradually improve the socialist market, so that the government departments can become a social force that cannot be ignored in the implementation of integrity education.

### **With the Help of the Media to Promote and Respect the Virtues of Integrity, Give Full Play to the Guiding Role**

Social media should create correct social public opinion according to its own characteristics, guide people with healthy and upward public opinion, and form a public opinion atmosphere that emphasizes honesty and is not ashamed of honesty by promoting typical and tree-based examples, so that the concept of honesty education deepens into the hearts of the people.

### **To Establish Appropriate Legislative Mechanisms**

Those who are untrustworthy cannot be severely punished, and those who are trustworthy will not be protected, and they will not be able to teach people's behavior. For some people, enterprises, or units in the society, dishonesty can be enforced through legislation, so that non-integrity behaviors are not only ethically condemned, but also legally sanctioned, thus protecting the trustworthy, severely punishing the believers, and purifying the social atmosphere. Let primary school students grow up in a social environment full of integrity, and integrity will be passed down from generation to generation.

## **Conclusion**

With the development of society, the promotion of civilization as well as the impact of Western culture, the integrity problem of primary school students cannot be ignored. The cultivation and development of the integrity of primary school students is a long-term, complex, and systematic process. It requires the cooperation and support among families, schools, and society, as well as and the unremitting efforts of developed educators. Reasonably grasping the concept of honesty education and strengthening the awareness of the integrity of primary school students will contribute to the healthy growth of the next generation in a relatively honest atmosphere, and the cultivation of qualified successors for building a prosperous and harmonious society.

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