ON CONSTRUCTING THE ECOLOGICAL ENVIRONMENT OF THE ADULT LEARNING

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Abstract

The environment plays an important role in the process of human development. What kind of learning environment the person is in, to a certain extent, determines the learning results. The adult learning environment should be incentive, harmonious, nutritious and sustainable. Therefore we should construct the ecological environment of the adult learning from such four aspects as the social system, the learners themselves, the learning process itself and the interaction between teaching and learning.

Key words: the adults; learning environment; ecological environment

The Constructivism Learning Theory thinks that knowledge is only a kind of hypothesis to explain the world, and learning is no longer process of passively receiving information, but process of the learner's actively constructing knowledge. It emphasizes the initiative, social and situational features of learning, and thinks that all learning is active meaning construction process of the complex interaction between the learning subject and the specific situation. In this way, the construction of learning environment and the construction of knowledge is closely linked. The adult learning environment which looks on the family, school, community, and work units as the basic elements, spreads from such aspects as materials, system and consciousness, and forms a three-dimensional environment network in the interaction   based on the Constructivism Learning Theory. And the adult constructs knowledge and forms personality in this environment. Thus constructing an ecological environment is the important guarantee for the adult learning to go smoothly and implement effectively.

The Basic Conception of the Ecological Environment of the adult learning Environment refers to the sum of various conditions in the living space of organisms, factors that restrict and regulate the adult learning constitute the adult learning environment. In modern society, people increasingly pay attention to the ecological environment construction, promoting the concept of ecology, and the word ecology comes from the ancient Greek words, meaning house or our environment. Simply speaking, ecology refers to the survival conditions of all living things, and the relationships between them and the interlocking between it and the environment. Today, the word ecology is becoming more and more widely involved, which is commonly used to define the many good things, such as health, beauty and harmony of all the things. Of course, the definition of ecology will be different on different backgrounds. The ecological environment of the Adult learning can be summed up the various factors which play an incentive role in the adult learning, and ensure efficiency harmony, nutrition and sustainable development for the adult learning.

Incentive

Learning is the art of touching the heart. The ecological environment of the adult learning should be able to arouse the adult's creativity and imagination, encourage the adult to pursue truth and goodness and beauty, respect knowledge and truth and science and labor, love life.

Harmonious

The ecological environment of the adult learning emphasizes coordination of the internal and external relations, attaches great importance to the supporting roles of the harmonious relationship to learning, promotes common development, all-round development, overall development and diversified development, promotes competition, tolerates failure, praise the advanced, support the weak.

Nutritious

The ecological environment of the adult learning should be integrated by the national and international, traditional and modern spirit wealth, providing the adult learning rich, vivid, and high-quality spiritual nutrition.

Sustainable

The ecological environment of the adult learning has the ability to select, absorb and release the materials, energy and information exchange, thus form a complete internal and external ecological cycle. The ecological environment of the adult learning is open, which keeps it vigorous and vital, makes the adult learning to keep up with the pace of the Times development, meets the needs of the situation changes, and constantly enhances their adaptability and hematopoietic function, promotes the sustainable development.

Ways to Constructing of the Ecological Environment of the adult learning

The learning environment is the combination of all sorts of study resources supporting for learners to learn. The environmental factors affecting the adult learning are diversified and multi-levels, and the natural, social, cultural, psychological and other environmental factors constitute the ecological environment of the adult learning which influences the adult learning and development, and these factors directly or indirectly influence, restrict, regulate the direction , motivation and model of the adult learning. The use of different conditions, forms, contents, processes and methods will naturally produces different ecological environment of the adult learning. The ecological environment system construction of the adult learning embodies the transferring and conversing process of the materials, energy and information, and the regulation process of various ecological factors. The ecological environment of the adult learning is mainly composed of such four aspects as the social system, learners themselves, the learning process itself, and the interaction between teaching and learning, and they interact with each other, forming resultant forces of the adult learning, promoting the adult learning efficiently.

The Social System

The Adult is the important cells of the social system and the main creative body, and every change of the social system will influence the change of the adult learning. This influence includes the social factors, policy factors and community factors.

Science and technology factors

In modern society, the update speed of knowledge leaps and bounds with the rapid progress in science and technology, the social progress and economic development is more and more dependent on the improvement of people's quality. For individuals, the level of knowledge and the creation of this ability will make themselves gain greater development opportunities in a society full of competition and constant changing, to a certain extent, which improve the initiative and enthusiasm of people to learn knowledge. At the same time, with the development of society and the improvement of economy, people's learning conditions will be greatly improved, and the new learning tools, such as computers, network and other high-tech means are emerging constantly, thus the efficiency of the adult learning will improve constantly.

Policy factors

Policy factors include macro development strategy formulated by the state and the related personnel system, wage system, employment policies and specific education, etc., which have great impact on the adult learning. The strategy of developing the country by science and education, highlighting the role of science and technology, further establishes the status and role of education, provides more and more learning opportunities for adults, and plays a very important role in improving the quality of the people.

Community factors

The influence on the adult learning of the community factors mainly refers to the influence of the community culture environment on the adult learning. The family is the cell of the society, and the basic organization form of the social human life and the basic unit of the adults' socialization. Most adults study in their part time, and family is the main place for them to study. Under the condition of the modern social life, with the improvement of family living conditions, the leisure time of the adult increases, especially the rise of online learning, the adult can accept education without leaving home, therefore, it becomes the basic problems of the adult family learning to optimize the family learning environment, form a good learning atmosphere, look on learning as an important part of the family life style, carry out a planned way of education investment, play a better role of the family environment education function. Also, if the adult works in the higher cultural sector and lives in the learning atmosphere of the community environment, influenced by the people around, he will take more part in the adult learning.

Learners Themselves

The world outlook, values, non-intelligence factors and potential form the basic conditions for the adult to be engaged in the learning activities and realize the learning goals, and constitute the internal environment of the learning subject. The adult who has established the correct world outlook and values tends to have a correct way of thinking and working methods, and can take right actions. Learners' intrinsic non-intelligence factors have a profound effect on learning. Non-intelligence factors include moral factors, motivation factors, personality factors and emotional factors. In people's physical and mental development, ideology and moral character is the soul, guiding people's words and deeds, and it is also the impulse for the adult to participate in learning and promote development. Sukhomlinskii once said, "The harmony of all various aspects and characteristics of the person are dominated by some of the first things, in this harmony, moral is the first thing and plays a decisive part." Motivation is the intrinsic impulse to maintain the person's activities directly in order to achieve a certain purpose, and the learning motivation is the internal force to directly devote the learners into the learning activities. Interest is the most realistic and the most active motivation factors with a strong emotional color. The adults always explore their interesting things actively and happily, and their learning activities are full of vitality and fun, thus they get good learning effect. Personality factors mainly refer to attitude and personality, people of different personalities have different attitudes and reactions toward learning, resulting in a different learning effect. Learners are always engaged in the learning activities in a certain mood and emotional state, as a kind of intrinsic motivation, mood and emotion directly affects the learning activities. The person's potential refers to the internal capability for the person to accept and grasp the object or the subject activity targeted, which is a possibility for the person's subjectivity to form and develop. The intellectual potentials of the adult concentrate on the thinking ability of the adult and creative ability to solve problems. Research has shown that the adult's intellectual potential is not terminated due to physiological mature but more affected by the accumulation of knowledge, experience and society. Therefore, the potential of the adult is the power environment for the adult to engage in the learning activities.

The Learning Process Itself

Learning is a complex cognitive process. It is not only the unity of cognition, emotion and will, and closely connected with the purposes, contents, methods and conditions of learning. The learning contents are the basis of the adult learning and play an important part in the learning activities. The learning contents are restricted by the learning purposes and serve the learning goals. The learning purposes are the effect for learning to pursuit with the function of guidance, motivation, regulation and evaluation. The difficulty degree of the learning contents also affects the learning motivation of the adult. Atkinson's study shows that only when working properly or medium difficultly, the human is in pursuit of achievement motivation highest, which shows that if the individual's learning aim too high or too low, values little to the adult's learning motivation, because the adult thinks it a piece of cake, or difficult to achieve. Therefore, the Learning contents should be matched with the original knowledge structure and ability structure of the adult. If the Learning contents cooperate with the adult's learning experiences contacting with life or work, they will strengthen the learning motivation of the adult. The individual learning experience has great influence on the learning motivation of the adult. It turns out that if learning ever brings the learners successful experiences or mental pleasure, they will take learning as a kind of enjoyment. D.P.Ausubel once said, "if I have to reduce all education psychology into a principle, I will say, the only and the most important factor influencing learning is what the learners have already known." The Adult has participated in the social labor, and he has a perceptual knowledge of his work and practical knowledge of the problems in the job, familiar with the operation procedures and process, understands the structures and ways of the interpersonal relationships at work. All of these are inexhaustible resources for the adult learning.

The Interaction between Teaching and Learning

The adult learning concludes not only self-study, but also the purposed, planned and organized learning activities between teachers and adult students, among adult students. Therefore, the interaction between teachers and students, among students is also the important environment of the adult learning. The flexible use of different teaching methods such as teaching and inspiring can strengthen the adult's learning motivation. The learning evaluation is the value judgment of the learning process and results, and it has functions of detection, feedback, guidance and so on. In addition, the teaching organization form and the class situation also directly affect the attitude and behavior of the adult learning, the interaction of the adult learners between individual and individual, individual and group has also a profound effect on the adult learning motivation. The relaxed, harmonious, equal and friendly learning group will create a psychological sense of security to the students, make them gain enterprising consciousness and improve their learning confidence and determination. And good classroom atmosphere, positive cooperation and effective competition help to stimulate the students' individual enthusiasm and improve the learning achievement motivation.

Conclusion

With the development of information technology and the theory of psychology, especially the development of the Constructivism Learning Theory, the new theoretical basis of the learning environment the Situated Theory has come into being, and people will no longer consider a kind of environment influence on education and teaching with their thought and vision restricted to quite a narrow world, but from the whole, mutual factors, multi-angles, multi-levels to study the environmental issues in the field of education. The adult is a special learning group, whose learning environment is also concerned. It has become an important subject of our research on how to build a harmonious, healthy and efficient and sustainable ecological environment of the adult learning.

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