

Social changes and moral education — Towards a review of the conception

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The traditional moral education, more of a kind of character education aimed at inculcation of certain prescribed beliefs, modeling after Confucianism is at odd with the values of the current legal system, i.e. constitutionalism, democracy and human rights, in Taiwan. It will be shown that the conception of moral education underlying the current educational practice needs to be changed in accord with the social change of moral consciousness towards post-conventional one exemplified by human rights. In a world of post-conventional consciousness, it is difficult to teach moral values as if were not being challenged, especially with those of conventional ones. A person of post-conventional consciousness is a free individual capable of arriving at his or her own conclusions about controversial moral issues. Moral education is definitely more of, and cannot be reduced to character education.

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