

# Research on the Path of Honest Education for College Students in Financial Difficulties

Haojun Dong<sup>1\*</sup>

<sup>1</sup>*Economics and Management College, Zhaoqing University, Zhaoqing, Guangdong, 526061, China*

<sup>\*</sup>*Corresponding author. Email: donghaojun2791@qq.com*

## ABSTRACT

In recent years, college students with financial need have benefited from various effective subsidy policies. College students no longer drop out of school for family economic condition. This article analyzes the current situation of honest education for college students in financial struggle who have been subsidized, holding that there exist some problems on the issues of the methods and effectiveness of honest education. Besides, some graduates are prone to lose sense of honesty. In order to strengthen the honest education for subsidized students from poverty-stricken families, a long-term honest education mechanism, a sound honesty supervision system and an integrity culture education base should be established. In addition, an honesty education credit system and credit for practice system are supposed to be formulated. Various forms of honest education activities should be provided and the forms for honest education could be activated to strengthen honest education.

**Keywords:** *College students in financial difficulties; Poverty-stricken students; Honest education; Integrity concept; Integrity awareness;*

## 1. Introduction

The national student loan is a beneficial policy that helps students suffering from economic struggle to complete their studies through financial means, aiming to achieve educational equity in the socialist market economy<sup>[1-3]</sup>. In addition, college students from impoverished family can also benefit from the national financial aid, the national inspirational scholarships, various financial aids in colleges and universities, special scholarships from a variety of enterprises and Diligent Work-Frugal Study position, etc. Most of these policies effectively help to solve students' financial difficulties, including their tuition and part of the living expenses. And thus, students without financial burden could live a bright college life. With the support of various effective subsidy policies, college students no longer drop out of school due to family financial difficulties, successfully achieving their college dreams. However, in recent years some problems related to personal integrity have cropped up in the group of subsidized students, which has aroused great concern in society. These problems involve deliberately concealing the real situation of the family economy, failing to fulfill the repayment agreement timely after graduating. Taking Zhaoqing University as an example, this article will analyze the statu quo and problems of honest education for subsidized college students in financial difficulties and further explore the path of honest education for subsidized college students in impoverished family.

## 2. Status Quo of Honest Education for Subsidized College Students in Financial Difficulties

### 2.1 Attach great importance to students' integrity education

Being honesty is one of traditional virtues of Chinese nation. In China, all of the national government and local governments, colleges and universities attach great importance to student integrity education. On September 1st, 2017, the Ministry of Education of the People's Republic of China promulgated the newly revised "Regulations on the Management of Students in General Colleges and Universities", which definitely requires colleges and universities to conduct integrity education on students, to record the honesty information of students' behavior in a proper way, and to establish a restraint and punishment mechanism for dishonesty. In light of actual situation, the Zhaoqing Municipal Government integrated local cultural and educational resources to established a "Dingyuan" integrity culture educational base, which played a role on integrity education and formed a great social atmosphere of "comprehending integrity, conducting honesty and keeping promises". Zhaoqing University regards the cultivation of honest and on students as an significant goal, and integrates integrity education into ideological and political education courses for college students.

## ***2.2 Guide Actively Students to Construct Awareness of Integrity***

Freshman entrance education is the starting point for university education, which helps college students establish rightful values. Honesty education is an important part of admission education for freshmen at Zhaoqing University. Freshmen can fully comprehend the importance of honesty at the initial stage of the university and establish a sense of honesty through special lectures in which the importance of honesty in learning and work is emphasized. In the regulations and stipulations of "Rules for Disciplinary Punishment of Students in Zhaoqing University", "Measures for the Evaluation of Students' Comprehensive Quality in Zhaoqing University", "Measures for the Evaluation of Family Financial Difficulties of Students in Zhaoqing University", "Measures for the Evaluation of 'Fuhui Charitable Foundation Series of Scholarships' in Zhaoqing University", the school attach great importance to student integrity. If there is any phenomenon of concealing facts, the one-vote veto system will be implemented. Integrity education is also an significant part of graduation education for graduates in Zhaoqing University. Before students graduating, the university requires all secondary colleges to conduct integrity education, emphasizing that students should perform loan contracts and repay on time, and requires students to observe strictly the regulations, to be honest and trustworthy.

## ***2.3 Students realize the importance of integrity***

In China, students are required to receive honesty education at different stages. At the stage of primary school, students are difficult to focus their attention well enough, and thus they attain a preliminary comprehension of honesty through edutainment. At the junior high school stage, students' minds gradually mature. They can understand the meaning of integrity and the importance of integrity through learning some positive and negative educational materials. At the university stage, with systematic and in-depth study, students grasp the inherent meaning of integrity and understand the role and harm of integrity through some cases of integrity and cases of dishonesty. After different stages of education, most students have comprehensively realized the importance of integrity.

## **3. The Problems of Honesty Education for Subsidized College Students in Financial Difficulties**

### ***3.1 The methods for honesty education need to be improved***

Traditionally, the methods for conducting integrity education in college involve setting up integrity education courses, introducing the concepts and significance of integrity, holding special lectures to share the concept of integrity, holding class meetings with special theme to emphasize the importance of honesty, signing with subsidized students Integrity Commitment Letter to establish spirit of contract in the form of words. The methods for honesty education are diverse, which provides students with a variety of learning methods. To a certain extent, these methods prompt students to establish a sense of integrity. However, most methods for education are quite tedious, and thus students are in short of learning enthusiasm and study incentives.

### ***3.2 The educational effectiveness of integrity education is inequable***

At present, with colleges and universities attaching importance on integrity education, most students could understand integrity, comprehend integrity, keep promises, and realize the importance of honesty. Nevertheless, some students have the following wrongful awareness. They believe that integrity is inessential or has no actual effect on personal development. When applying for various types of bursaries and scholarships, they deliberately concealed their family economic situation so as to obtain financial assistance. Worse of all, some students made up materials and concealed facts when applying for national student loan.

### ***3.3 Some graduates are inclined to lose sense of integrity***

In recent years, some graduates have failed to comply with the National Student Loan Treaty, overdue repayment or malicious arrears emerging. To explore the factors behind these phenomena, main subjective and objective reasons are found. Some of students are busy with working and forget the repayment time. Some of them are unsatisfied with their work and not in the mood to deal with repayment. Worse still, others are unable to repay for poor income, avoiding repayment deliberately or even refusing to repay brazenly. None of these subjective or objective factors can be a reason for breach of contract.

#### **4. The Paths for Integrity Education on Subsidized College Students in Financial Difficulties**

##### ***4.1 Strengthen the awareness of integrity and establish a long-term integrity education mechanism***

The integrity problems on some graduates who have left school ultimately come down to the lack of a long-term integrity education mechanism. Before the students in financial difficulties receiving financial assistance, the college should invite legal experts to give professional lectures, to lecture the harm of dishonesty on individuals. Besides, bankers should also be invited to give professional lectures on national student loans and introduce knowledge about timely repayment and personal credit to motivate students' sense of integrity. During the funding period, the college are supposed to gather the subsidized students to learn the students' study and living conditions in the form of symposium, and constantly strengthen their awareness of integrity through lectures. After the subsidized students graduating, the school should keep in touch with them, occasionally share integrity stories and news on WeChat Group, and be alert to graduates to maintain integrity. At the meantime, the college must track subsidized students who are unemployed, and take advantage of faculties and alumni resources to introduce them a suitable job, through which graduates have a stable economic income. And therefore they successfully avoid conducting dishonesty due to financial difficulties.

##### ***4.2 Play the role of supervision and forewarning, and establish a sound integrity supervision system***

Integrity supervision system contributes to discovering problems, processing problems and solving problems timely. Therefore, an integrity monitoring system of "classmates, class teachers, counselors and parents" can be established. With this system, classmates should play a role of daily supervisory. When the subsidized students show a sense of honesty laxity or violate the spirit of integrity, they should be found, alerted and reported in time to nip dishonesty in the bud, avoiding its serious development. In addition, the head teacher should perform their duty on the communication issue. They are supposed to communicate with the students from time to time, track the behavior of the subsidized students timely, correct the students' misguided value, and avoid the phenomenon of dishonesty. Furthermore, the counselors should perform properly in establishing the archives of subsidized students as well as recording the integrity of students during school time details, guide students to maintain integrity, attach importance on the supervisory role of parents in integrity

education, and strengthen communication and contact with parents. They are expected to instill parents with integrity knowledge, help to establish their integrity awareness, and guide parents to perform duties on supervising their children's integrity.

##### ***4.3 Plan for the development of honesty education and establish an integrity culture educational base***

At present, all over the country attach great importance to integrity education, and integrity culture education bases have been established. In 2017, Zhaoqing government established the first city's honesty theme park "Dingyuan" in Dinghu District. In this park, a strong sense of integrity has been created such as integrity Dading, integrity allusions, and integrity murals, which provide high-quality educational resources for integrity education in Zhaoqing University. However, with the progress of society and the continuous enhancement of cultural demand of college students, the previous integrity culture educational base failed to meet the education needs. Therefore, government departments should further explore urban planning, plan for the development of integrity education, allocate special support funds, and establish more local integrity culture educational bases with local cultural characteristics which motivates students to study, to improve themselves. Colleges and universities should take advantage of the local high-quality integrity cultural educational base resources to work out their educational guidance functions, organizing college students from financially disadvantaged families to receive integrity education baptism and strengthen their integrity awareness on the bases.

##### ***4.4 Compile teaching materials of integrity and establish credit system for compulsory courses of integrity education***

In the past, integrity education was set as a part of the ideological and political education courses for college students. It was not an independent course, and there was no corresponding credit for integrity education. As a result, students pay little attention on it. And therefore, experts should be organized to compile a set of honest teaching materials that are in line with the local universities' education and establish a systematic education model. Except for creating integrity teaching materials, credit education credits are expected to be set separately, being included in credit management of compulsory courses for college students. Colleges and universities should offer integrity education courses specially, which require students to complete credit studies on honesty education and pass the corresponding exams during college period, further guiding students to attach great importance on integrity education.

#### ***4.5 Innovate the education mechanism and formulate practice credit system of Integrity Education***

Based on the "Implementation Plan for Social Practice Credit Evaluation of College Students in Zhaoqing University", the integrity education practice activities are incorporated into social practice activities. All college students, including college students from financially disadvantaged families, are required to complete the integrity education practice activities during the period of university. In addition, they are also required to visit specific honesty culture educational base, to learn from it and write personal reflection after the activity. And only after rigorous review and evaluation can the practice activity be truly completed.

#### ***4.6 Enrich the form of education and hold various forms of integrity education activities***

In order to further boost the attractiveness of integrity education activities, comprehensive pre-investigation work should be carried out based on social development, personality characteristics of college students, and actual demand of college students, and then a variety of integrity education activities that meet the actual needs should be held. Take the establishment of integrity education activity week for example, in this week, the college advertise properly on integrity to form a sound public opinion environment and enlarge the influence of integrity education in campus. Besides, colleges and universities could carry out a series of special activities about integrity, such as inviting subsidized graduates to return to the school to hold integrity lectures, inviting bank experts to introduce relevant policies on national student loans, organizing large-scale literary gala with the theme of integrity. Furthermore, combined with college student party member activities and league member activities, the teachers are supposed to organize party-day activities and league-day activities with the theme of integrity, for which college students can experience integrity and understand integrity in the activities. The faculties in college should organize integrity essay activities to record college students' integrity stories, and make full use of college students' associations to hold diverse and honest-themed community activities, such as honesty-themed drama competitions, honesty-themed painting competitions, honesty graffiti activities, honesty-story recitation competitions, honesty-themed debates, etc.

#### ***4.7 Be innovative and activate the education form of integrity education***

The traditional form of honesty education is quite monotonous, and thus students have no interest in learning and pour little effort on it. For this reason, it is necessary to change the traditional education model, to activate the form of integrity education, and hold some experiential integrity education activities. For instance, in cooperation with the College of Sports, the college could take advantage of resources from some excellent orienteering teachers in college, utilize the wealthy experience in orienteering activities and associate orienteering with integrity education, setting up punched-card places for honesty and dishonesty in suitable places on campus. Students are required to complete the punch-card activity at different places within the specified time, and rank according to the correct number of punch cards and the time to complete the punch card in the end. The experiential integrity education activities will free students from traditional constraints, allowing them to participate in and experience themselves. In this process, students have a great interest in participation and devote themselves to the activity, which is conducive to the positive effect of edutainment.

#### **REFERENCES**

- [1] Liu Jun, Lin Zelong, Chen Yao. Investigation and measure research on the publicity effect of the national student loan policy on universities in six cities of Guangdong [J]. Shanghai Education Evaluation Research, 2017, 6 (04): 34-37, 51.
- [2] Liu Jun. Research on the National Student Loan Policy of College Students in Guangdong—Based on the Empirical Research on Shaoguan City in the Past Three Years [J]. Heilongjiang Education, 2017, (11): 99-101
- [3] Huang Renqiang. How to root integrity in the soil of the students' minds—Exploration on how loan college students can repay the national student loan timely [J]. Shanxi Youth, 2017, (12): 162.