

# On the Solutions to Reform Red Cross Spirit Education During COVID-19 Pandemic

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COVID-19 pandemic causes various challenges to education, especially in Red Cross Spirit education, which may affect students' growth. This study gives detailed analysis of the challenges that Red Cross Spirit education encounters. Then, this study attempts to seek out suitable solutions from three perspectives: schools, teachers, and parents, hoping to provide reference for teaching or education in other disciplines and make a contribution to students' growth.

*Keywords:* Red Cross Spirit, moral education, COVID-19 pandemic

## Introduction

In the end of 2019, COVID-19 pandemic broke out on earth. "Most countries in the world experienced an unprecedented total or partial lockdown which led to the immediate closure of universities and school" (Flores & Swennen, 2020, p. 453). To get a comprehensive understanding of the situation, more and more scholars immerge themselves in studies related to education during COVID-19. Since then, researches on the influence of COVID-19 on education have increased rapidly, covering various topics. One of the topics getting involved during COVID-19 pandemic is moral education.

"Moral education refers to the deliberate teaching of particular values, attitudes, and dispositions to stimulate the prosocial and moral development of students" (Schuitema, Dam, & Veugelers, 2008, p. 70). Researches on moral education never stop. The major account of those researches is about ideological and political education in higher education, and moral education in primary schools and middle schools. For instance, Xiang Yong, Pan Jiajia, and Li Lingzhi (2020) paid attention to college students' ideological and political education in the context of COVID-19 pandemic and provide strategies to enhance the education. Enika Vera Intania and Sutama Sutama (2020) turned to study the role of character education in learning during the COVID-19 pandemic. Zou Tailong and Wang Shimei (2020) thought about the problems in moral education, and they put forward feasible solutions. Senata Adi Prasetya and Siti Firqo Najiyah (2021) realized the necessary of revitalizing character education—a type of moral education during COVID-19 after having conducted a survey on people's behaviors. They take full consideration feature of situation and education during COVID-19 pandemic, and then offer specific strategies

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This work is one of the results of "The Practice of the Red Cross Spirit in the Moral Education Work of Health Secondary Vocational Schools" (Project No.: HJG21006) supported by Hefei Education Science Planning issues in Anhui Province.

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to the problems.

It could be safe to say that there has been a large number of systematic studies on moral education during COVID-19 pandemic. However, there is a common feature among those researches: Few researches are conducted on certain moral content, let alone corresponding reasonable solutions. This paper attempts to study an important part of moral education—the Red Cross Spirit education, and gives solutions for the education during COVID-19 pandemic, hoping to provide reference for the teaching of other disciplines, and for the problems of education appearing during the pandemic.

### **Values of Red Cross Spirit in the Context of COVID-19 Pandemic**

Red Cross Spirit comes from Red Cross Movement led by Henri Dunant. It consists of the spirit of humanity, the spirit of love, and the spirit of dedication. After the test of more than one-hundred-year time, Red Cross Spirit has become a kind of spiritual guidance for people's moral development, especially for those who are still in their young age. Particularly, it plays an important role in providing spiritual support for students who have to shift face-to-face learning into online learning since their schools are on lockdown during COVID-19 pandemic.

The spirit of humanity refers to the spirit that guides people to “protect others in danger or disaster and respect others' right of life and health” (Jinan Red Cross Society, 2005, p. 29). COVID-19 pandemic provides students who are born in prosperity or at least in moderate prosperity more opportunities to experience challenging and dangerous situation. Due to lockdown policies, especially medical workers take the responsibility for fighting with virus. They would treat each patient equally, which reflects the spirit of humanity. Undoubtedly, their behaviors set good and vivid examples of the spirit of humanity for students. On the basis of medical workers' examples and volunteers' effort of Red Cross Society, teachers and parents could offer students inspiration of the spirit of humanity in the case of the pandemic never met before. It could benefit students in their moral development, and improve them to be better human being. Besides, the spirit of humanity enlightens students to make better preparation for their future. Namely, they will arm themselves with enough knowledge and skills so as to help others in need, which could soothe their anxiety caused by the pandemic.

The spirit of love refers to the spirit of “respecting others' values, caring for others and helping others” (Jinan Red Cross Society, 2005, p. 36). The spirit could make contribution to building a harmonious society since it could alleviate the alienation among modern people brought by fast-speed modern life. During the epidemic, nearly all people are limited in their houses. What's more, given that many factories or shops are shut, there are not enough food or other daily resources. Faced with this, more and more neighbors who might never see each other before give a hand to those in trouble. Gradually, they are more likely to love their neighbors, relatives, and friends. The whole environment becomes more harmonious, which would affect students. The solidarity of students at the era of epidemic will more or less turn to be firmer. Therefore, teachers could combine the closer relationship during the pandemic into their moral education, which could help students envision a society filled with love.

The spirit of dedication refers to the spirit of “devoting oneself to his or her profession, or putting others' life or countries benefit firstly” (Jinan Red Cross Society, 2005, p. 38). It is a spirit of selflessness. There always are some people needing to dedicate themselves so that others life could be in order. The same situation happens in severe situation—COVID-19 pandemic. At the present, a mass of medical workers, volunteers, and other public servants have to put their families aside and work for others in need. In the meantime, they are surrounded by the corona virus. The spirit of dedication they deliver there would give deep impression on students. Teachers

who think about the enlightenment of the spirit will give students a more efficient moral education. In addition, according to Lao Zi's *Tao Te Ching*, "The excellence of water appears in its benefiting all things, and in its occupying, without striving (to the contrary), the low place which all men dislike. Hence (its way) is near to (that of) the Tao" (Wei & Zhao, 2017, p. 212). The spirit of dedication could teach students to take more social responsibilities, which could broaden their horizons. Students under the influence of the spirit of dedication could make more contribution to the community of shared future.

### **The Challenges of Delivering Red Cross Spirit in Moral Courses**

Given the moral value of Red Cross Spirit and its inspiration for students' life, it is valuable to put Red Cross Spirit into moral education. More and more schools apply the spirit to moral courses and make an achievement in the moral teaching. In early 2020, COVID-19 pandemic broke out on earth. According to regulation of epidemic prevention, face-to-face learning is replaced by online learning. "Transitioning from traditional face-to-face learning to online learning can be an entirely different experience for the learners and the educators, which they must adapt to with little or no other alternatives available" (Pokhrel & Chhetri, 2021, p. 134). The progress of moral education that contains Red Cross Spirit is suspended during COVID-19 pandemic. Also, it brings about challenges for schools, teachers, and parents.

As for schools, the challenges caused by COVID-19 are mainly related to the technology, equipment, and wireless networks. Although Red Cross Spirit is an outcome of certain era, it is a kind of product that closely follows the latest status of people life. Combined with the situation of pandemic, Red Cross Spirit courses demand fast network speed and well-equipped classrooms. However, due to the suddenness of pandemic, those requirements are challenges for schools' equipment. In addition, the environment that is built on campus for causing potential influence of Red Cross Spirit could not be fully utilized, not to speaking of the important influence on children moral development that the surrounding exerts.

With the respective of teachers of Red Cross Spirit course, they are faced with more challenges than before. The first challenge is the requirement on their knowledge of technology. Unlike face-to face teaching, they need to be proficient in operation of kinds of software for the purpose of making preparation for their online teaching. Namely, they are required to enhance their technology skills, which will cost them more time to prepare for their teaching. Another challenge for teachers of Red Cross Spirit course is that there are more difficulties in evaluating students' behaviors. Different from teachers of other disciplines, teachers of Red Cross Spirit course put more emphasis on cultivating students' virtues and developing their moral behaviors. Through students' expressions, actions, as well as their voices, teachers could have a comprehensive idea of how to improve their teaching in order to get a better effort. However, online-teaching results more difficulties for getting feedback in time since students are more or less passive behind screens.

In the aspect of parents, there are also challenges. Firstly, parents take more responsibilities for their children's education. Parents who need to focus on their own business used to have less time on their children's education. Due to the pandemic, there are enough time for parents to spend with their children. That is to say, parents need to pay more attention to their children's growth. There comes to be a problem about the Red Cross Spirit courses. Without professional knowledge of Red Cross Spirit, they do not know how to inspire their children in life and how to give their children enlightenment, even though there are many online cases for references. What's more, given few contacts between teachers and parents, parents need to put more effort into their children's education, which is demanding for those parents.

### **Solutions for the Improvement of Red Cross Spirit Moral Courses**

Red Cross Spirit moral courses play vital roles in students' spiritual growth during the pandemic. It could not only help students overcome spiritual conditions, such as anxiety, but also guide them to make progress in their study. Nevertheless, there are plenty of challenges for the teaching of those courses. To better deal with the challenges, schools, teachers, and parents need to work together to come up with solutions.

Judging from the situation of pandemic, schools lost their advantages in exerting influence on students with the help of environment on campus. But schools could strive to build a clean online environment so as to support Red Cross Spirit online teaching. Schools need to leverage their strengths in virtual space. For instance, they could ask for help of technology department to remove related information that causes negative results. To gain better effect, schools should provide teachers with regular training class of operation on certain software to support Red Cross Spirit teaching. Besides, schools should provide online platform for discussion on Red Cross Spirit online courses. Moreover, schools should establish a smart classroom in which students could receive better effect from Red Cross Spirit courses. Schools also could support online reading and teaching with all their advance technology and bring teachers and student different experience on moral education.

Teachers who suffered difficulties during pandemic should make breakthrough. Overall, they need to take in-depth teaching. They should learn to improve their online teaching skills from different perspectives including course design, course development, and course valuation. From the perspective of design, teachers should learn to combine their knowledge of Red Cross Spirit and their experience of online teaching and think out a more appropriate solution. Teachers also need to make a positive exploration of distilling the modern value of Red Cross Spirit. They could be concerned with current affair because it will give a deep impression on students to blend events during the pandemic with Red Cross Spirit. For instance, during the pandemic, numerous doctors and nurses devote themselves to providing medical service day and night, demonstrating the spirit of dedication—a part of Red Cross Spirit. Cases like this will speak more than words on the screens or textbooks.

Parents who are required to pay more attention to children's education should take measures to acquire knowledge of Red Cross Spirit and improve their moral education skills. They should firstly ask for help from teachers. Through close cooperation with teachers, parents could gain a systemic knowledge of Red Cross Spirit. At the same time, parents could resort to amounts of online courses related to Red Cross Spirit. Furthermore, parents could keep regular contact with each other, aiming to discuss their experience or ideas of how to give better teaching to their children. If time permit, they could communicate with their children deeply so that they could get effective feedback, which is benefit to their children's growth.

### **Conclusion**

Although Red Cross Spirit originated from Red Cross Movement one hundred years ago, it stands the test of time and plays an indispensable role in moral education even during COVID-19. The problems are how to deal with the challenges that appear during the pandemic in order to make Red Cross Spirit useful. After analysis of online situation, this study finds that the challenges come from three perspectives, including schools, teachers, and parents. To take effective measure, this study takes all perspectives of the challenges into consideration. After all, only by integrating all efforts could we make full use of modern value of Red Cross Spirit. This study could provide reference for other study in moral education during the pandemic.

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