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**Zheng Xinlong**

Master

Kazakh National University

Almaty, Kazakhstan

**Jia Baoer**

Master

Kazakh National University

Almaty, Kazakhstan

**Shakirova Araily**

PhD

Kazakh National University

Almaty, Kazakhstan

**SPIRITUAL AND MORAL EDUCATION OF FUTURE HEADS OF  
FAMILIES IN THE ETHNOPEDAGOGICAL TRADITIONS OF CHINA**

**Abstract:** This article examines the influence of Chinese national educational traditions on the spiritual and moral education of future family heads. Through an

analysis of the educational concepts of Confucianism, Daoism, and Buddhism, the importance of virtues such as honesty, loyalty, and humility is emphasized. The article also discusses strategies for cultivating responsibility, emotional communication, and self-management. It analyzes the impact of social changes on family education and offers recommendations for preserving the essence of traditional education in a multicultural environment. In conclusion, the unique role of the family as the basic unit of society in maintaining and promoting traditional virtues is highlighted, and the article calls for active societal support for the development of family education.

**Keywords:** National Educational Traditions, Heads of Families, Spiritual Education, Moral Education, Family Education, Traditional Virtues

**ЧЖЭН Синьлун**

Магистр

Казахстанский государственный университет

Алматы, Казахстан

**Цзя Баоэр**

Магистр

Казахстанский государственный университет

Алматы, Казахстан

**Арайлы Далеловна**

Доктор

Казахстанский государственный университет

Алматы, Казахстан

## **ДУХОВНО-ПРАВСТВЕННОЕ ВОСПИТАНИЕ БУДУЩИХ ГЛАВ**

### **СЕМЬИ В ЭТНОПЕДАГОГИЧЕСКИХ ТРАДИЦИЯХ КИТАЙ**

**Аннотация:** В статье рассматривается влияние традиций китайского национального образования на духовное и нравственное воспитание будущих руководителей семей. Путем анализа образовательных концепций конфуцианства, даосизма и буддизма подчеркивается важность таких качеств, как честность, преданность и скромность. Также обсуждаются стратегии воспитания ответственности, эмоциональной коммуникации и самоуправления. Статья анализирует влияние социальных изменений на семейное образование и

предлагает рекомендации по сохранению сущности традиционного образования в условиях мультикультурной среды. В заключение подчеркивается уникальная роль семьи как основной ячейки общества в сохранении и продвижении традиционных добродетелей, а также призывается общество активно поддерживать развитие семейного воспитания.

**Ключевые слова:** Национальные Образовательные Традиции, Руководители Семей, Духовное Воспитание, Нравственное Воспитание, Семейное Образование, Традиционные Добродетели

### **Introduction**

The traditions of Chinese ethnic education have a long history, and their profound influence is not only reflected in the shaping of individual growth but also deeply imprinted in the cultural fabric of society. This tradition emphasizes the family as the basic unit for cultural inheritance and social stability, bestowing upon the family an irreplaceable core position in Chinese culture. The family is not only

the carrier of bloodline continuity but also an important place for the transmission of moral values, beliefs, and behavioral habits.

When discussing the spiritual and moral education of future heads of families, it is necessary to confront the deep foundation provided by this tradition. The role of the head of the family is not only as a decision-maker and manager within the family but also as a transmitter and promoter of family culture and values. Their spiritual and moral level directly impacts the harmony and stability of the family, and even the progress of society as a whole [1]. Therefore, a thorough analysis of the influence of Chinese ethnic educational traditions on the spiritual and moral education of future heads of families not only helps to better understand the essence and laws of family education but also provides valuable insights and references for addressing the challenges brought by modern societal changes, promoting the continuous development and innovation of family education.

### **Core Concepts of Chinese Ethnic Educational Traditions**

Chinese ethnic educational traditions are deeply influenced by major philosophical schools such as Confucianism, Daoism, and Buddhism, forming unique educational concepts. Confucianism advocates "ren" (benevolence), emphasizing treating others with kindness, which is reflected in family education through the love and care of parents for their children, and the respect and filial piety of children towards their parents [2]. Confucianism also promotes "li, yi, lian, chi" (ritual, righteousness, integrity, and shame), considering these as the foundation of personal character and social order. In family education, this focuses on cultivating children's understanding of etiquette, moral concepts, and a sense of shame.

Daoism emphasizes "dao fa zi ran" (the Way is natural), advocating following the laws of nature and pursuing inner peace and freedom. In family education, this manifests as respecting children's nature, encouraging free exploration and development, while cultivating their ability to think independently and solve problems. Buddhism emphasizes compassion and inner cultivation. In family education, this reflects the cultivation of children's compassion and empathy,

teaching them to be tolerant, understanding, and caring towards others. These core concepts have not only shaped the value orientation of family education but also profoundly influenced the trajectory of individual growth. They provide rich spiritual resources and value guidance for family education, helping individuals form a well-rounded personality, possess noble moral qualities, and adapt well to society.

### **Role of the Head of the Family**

In traditional families, the head of the family is typically an elder or parent who assumes the role of decision-maker and authority figure. They are responsible for managing the family's livelihood, overseeing the education of children, and making decisions on major matters such as marriage, funerals, and property. Their authority and experience provide stability and guidance for the family unit. In modern families, however, the role of the head of the family has evolved and diversified significantly. They are no longer confined to being mere authority figures but are also expected to fulfill roles as economic providers, emotional supporters, and educational mentors. This shift reflects changes in societal norms, economic conditions, and family

dynamics, where collaborative and participative approaches have become more prevalent in family governance.

The head of the family now bears multiple and often overlapping responsibilities and obligations. These include maintaining family harmony, fostering the personal growth of family members, and serving as custodians of family culture. To meet these responsibilities, they must act as role models, guiding family members to adopt correct values and positive life attitudes through effective communication, active listening, and thoughtful education. By fostering a supportive and inclusive environment, they can encourage open dialogue, mutual respect, and shared responsibility among family members.

Most importantly, the head of the family plays a critical role in transmitting family culture and values [3]. Through their words and actions, they instill traditional virtues such as honesty, respect, and diligence, as well as behavioral norms and long-term value pursuits, in the next generation. This process ensures the continuity and stability of family culture, allowing it to adapt and thrive in an ever-changing world.



Moreover, their role extends beyond the immediate family to include fostering relationships with the extended family and the community, thereby creating a broader network of cultural preservation and support.

In addition to preserving traditions, the head of the family must also balance the integration of modern values and practices. This includes embracing diversity, encouraging individual expression, and fostering the development of skills necessary for navigating contemporary challenges. By doing so, they can ensure that family members are not only rooted in their heritage but also equipped to succeed and contribute positively in modern society. This dual responsibility—preserving tradition while adapting to change—underscores the dynamic and multifaceted role of the head of the family in both traditional and modern contexts.

### **Content of Spiritual and Moral Education**

In spiritual and moral education, character education is the cornerstone. Virtues such as integrity, loyalty, and humility are not only the foundation of personal standing but also the cornerstone of family harmony. The head of the family should

set an example by practicing integrity, transmitting loyalty values, and fostering a humble attitude in children [4]. Through everyday life, by telling historical stories and sharing personal experiences, the head of the family subtly guides children to form correct moral concepts.

The cultivation of a sense of responsibility is crucial for personal growth and family harmony. The head of the family should encourage children to take on household chores and participate in family decision-making, allowing them to experience responsibility and learn to take on tasks. At the same time, by setting goals and providing feedback, they can stimulate children's inner motivation and develop a sense of responsibility.

Emotional expression and communication skills are the lubricants in family relationships. The head of the family should encourage open and honest communication, teaching children how to express their feelings and listen to others. By creating a warm and inclusive family atmosphere, they help children learn to care for others in a loving environment, fostering healthy emotional relationships [5].

Additionally, self-management skills such as self-discipline, time management, and emotional control are important guarantees for personal success and family happiness. The head of the family should guide children to create reasonable plans, cultivate self-discipline habits, teach time management skills to improve life efficiency, and help children control their emotions through emotional education, promoting healthy growth.

### **Educational Methods and Strategies**

In family education, "leading by example" is the basic principle. The behavior of the head of the family has a profound influence on the children, shaping their attitudes, beliefs, and behaviors over time. Therefore, they should embody the values and moral standards they wish to instill, demonstrating qualities such as honesty, responsibility, and empathy through their actions. When children observe these behaviors consistently, they are more likely to internalize them as part of their own character. This approach not only reinforces the credibility of the head of the family

but also creates a nurturing environment where moral and ethical lessons are naturally absorbed.

Using traditional festivals and customs for moral education is an effective strategy that connects children to their cultural roots while fostering their moral development. By participating in festive activities, such as preparing traditional foods or engaging in rituals, and sharing the stories and values associated with these traditions, children can develop a deeper appreciation for their heritage and cultivate moral emotions such as gratitude, respect, and compassion. This method provides a relaxed and enjoyable learning atmosphere, making it easier for children to relate to and embrace these values. Additionally, involving children in the planning and execution of these activities enhances their sense of responsibility and belonging, further strengthening family cohesion.

The establishment of family rules and traditions plays a critical role in shaping children's character. Clear family rules help children understand the boundaries of acceptable behavior and foster a sense of accountability and self-discipline. For

example, setting rules around sharing household responsibilities can teach children the value of teamwork and fairness. Meanwhile, positive family traditions—such as regular family meals, storytelling nights, or volunteering together—subtly shape children’s behavior and values over time. These traditions serve as a moral compass, guiding children’s actions and reinforcing the family’s core principles. The head of the family should actively preserve and pass down these traditions, integrating them into daily life to help children form correct moral concepts and behavioral habits.

With the development of technology, modern tools such as educational apps, online learning platforms, and digital storytelling resources are increasingly utilized in family education. These tools can make learning more interactive and engaging, providing children with access to a wide range of resources and perspectives. However, while leveraging these technological advances, the head of the family must remain mindful of their limitations. Overreliance on electronic devices can lead to a decline in face-to-face interactions and emotional connections within the family. To counteract this, the head of the family should prioritize activities that promote direct

communication, such as shared reading, group discussions, and collaborative projects. They should also set boundaries around screen time and model healthy digital habits to ensure that technology enhances rather than replaces the core aspects of moral and emotional education.

Furthermore, the head of the family should actively foster an environment that encourages open dialogue and mutual respect. By creating opportunities for children to express their thoughts, ask questions, and discuss moral dilemmas, they can help children develop critical thinking and decision-making skills. These discussions not only enhance children's understanding of ethical principles but also prepare them to navigate complex social situations with confidence and integrity. This comprehensive approach ensures that family education remains holistic, blending tradition with modernity to support the well-rounded development of children.

### **Challenges and Coping Strategies**

Modern social changes, such as fast-paced lifestyles and information overload, have had a profound impact on family education, posing numerous challenges. In a

multicultural context, how to preserve the essence of traditional education while integrating modern elements has become a significant issue for the heads of families.

These challenges are further compounded by the increasing influence of globalization, which introduces diverse cultural values, sometimes conflicting with traditional family norms, and by the pervasive role of technology, which reshapes how families communicate and educate.

To address these challenges, the head of the family should first clarify and reaffirm the core values of family education, such as integrity, respect, and responsibility. These values should serve as guiding principles that remain constant even amidst cultural diversity. Upholding these values in a multicultural environment requires deliberate effort, such as setting clear family rules, fostering open communication about cultural differences, and encouraging mutual understanding and respect within the family. It is equally important to involve children in discussions about these core values, helping them understand their significance and relevance in today's context.

Simultaneously, the head of the family should actively explore innovative educational methods that blend tradition with modernity. For instance, leveraging modern technological tools such as educational apps, virtual museum tours, or interactive storytelling platforms can enrich educational content and make it more engaging. These tools can introduce children to their cultural heritage in a dynamic way while also exposing them to global perspectives. However, it is crucial to maintain a balance, ensuring that technology complements rather than replaces traditional face-to-face interactions and moral teachings.

Furthermore, the head of the family should strengthen their connections with society by engaging with schools, community organizations, and cultural institutions. Attending community events, participating in cultural activities, and fostering relationships with educators and peers can help the family stay informed about societal changes and external influences. By doing so, they can adjust family education strategies in a timely and informed manner, ensuring that children are



equipped to maintain their traditional cultural roots while developing the adaptability needed to thrive in a modern, multicultural world.

Finally, fostering collaboration between family, school, and community can create a supportive network that enhances the educational experience. Schools can provide structured learning environments, while community initiatives can offer diverse cultural and social experiences. Together, these efforts ensure a holistic approach to family education, promoting the healthy development of children in a rapidly changing society. This synergy between tradition and modernity not only strengthens family bonds but also prepares children to navigate the complexities of contemporary life with confidence and a strong moral foundation.

### **Conclusion**

The traditions of Chinese ethnic education play an irreplaceable role in the spiritual and moral education of future heads of families. They not only provide rich educational resources and value guidance for family heads but also emphasize the family's core position in transmitting and promoting traditional virtues in society. In

the face of modern societal challenges, family heads should uphold the essence of traditional education, embrace innovation, and create a favorable family environment for the healthy growth of children. Therefore, all sectors of society should pay attention to and support the development of family education, working together to promote its continuous progress and contribute to the harmony and stability of society.

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