Consultation, Contribution and Shared Benefits—The Golden Principle of Creating a Better Dormitory Life for College Students

Dan-Ping WANG

Ningbo Dahongying University, Ningbo, Zhejiang, China
271575026@qq.com

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Abstract. In the report at the 19th National Congress of the Communist Party of China (CPC) on Oct. 18, 2017, the General Secretary Xi Jinping (Xi) suggested people’s needs for a better life (Xi, 2017). For college students, better campus life could hardly be achieved without a safe and clean dormitory or harmonious relationship between room-mates. However, due to their strong individuality and self-consciousness, modern college students are often overwhelmed by various problems arising in the dormitory life. These problems, if not dealt with properly, could have negative effects on the quality of students’ campus life and therefore hinder the health growth and development of college students both physically and psychologically. Xi proposed the concept of global governance—Wide Consultation, Joint Contribution and Shared Benefits. This paper believes the concept is also the golden principle of creating a better dormitory life for college students. Moreover, the paper analyses how the principle could be applied to help students to deal with problems arising in dormitory life and create a better dormitory life, so as to enjoy health growth and development in college.

Introduction

As a place for college students to rest, study and interact, the dormitory plays a crucial role in the growth and development of college students. A better dormitory life can provide safety and pleasance for college students so that they are better ready to be committed in academic study and other more challenging tasks. However, problems such as messy space environment, potential safety hazards and tense interpersonal relationship arise now and then in college dormitories. These problems, especially the potential safety hazards and conflicts between room-mates, exert great unfavorable effects on members living in the dormitory (Gao, 2010). As a counselor who deals with students’ affairs in colleges, the author is often consulted by students about how to handle with problems in the dormitory life, including how to maintain a good relationship with room-mates.

Modern college students of post-95s have strong individuality and self-consciousness. Most of them are the only child in the family. They have grown with much love and attention from their parents and grandparents. They know what they want and are willing to do whatever to meet their own interests without taking others’ needs into consideration. Living with other peers from different places in the same room, they tend to have difficulties in accommodating themselves to the new circumstance and dealing with new relationships due to the lack of so much concern and attention as they gained at home.

Learn to co-exist with others and create a better dormitory life should be an important lesson for college students (Gao, 2010). Xi proposed the concept of global governance—Wide Consultation, Joint Contribution and Shared Benefits. Based on real practice of dealing with students’ affairs and the understanding of the concept, the author believes this concept is the golden principle of creating a better dormitory life.

Connotation of “Wide Consultation, Joint Contribution and Shared Benefits”

“Wide Consultation, Joint Contribution and Shared Benefits” is the concept proposed by Xi for
global governance. The core meaning of the concept is that all participants of global governance discuss global affairs extensively, contribute their own efforts in global governance and thus, in return, the result and fruit of global governance can benefit all the participants in a more equal way. This shows that the basic principle of dealing with international relations will change from confrontation to cooperation, from focusing on its own interests to seeking common interests, and from being closed and exclusive to being open and inclusive.

There is a lot common in dealing with international relations between different countries sharing the same globe and dealing with interpersonal relations between room-mates sharing the same dormitory. As the whole globe could be “a community with shared future for mankind”(Qin, 2017) dormitory could be “a tiny community with shared future for its members”. All the members share the same aspiration for a better dormitory life.

**Connotation of a Better Dormitory Life**

In the report at the 19th National Congress of the CPC, Xi suggested people’s needs for a better life. For modern college students, their needs for a better life should be needs for a better campus life, as they spend most of the time on campus. As a place for students to rest, study and interact, the dormitory is vital to the quality of college life. A better dormitory life is an important part of a better campus life. From the perspective of the author, a better dormitory life mainly includes the following aspects.

Firstly, members are safe and their property in the dormitory is protected, which provides a foundation for a better dormitory life because safety is the top priority in any place. Since many students have complained about stolen property, the protection of personal property could never be neglected. Secondly, the dormitory enjoys a clean and tidy space environment. Most students feel comfortable in a clean and tidy space, though some few do not mind messiness. Thirdly, the atmosphere is comfortable and pleasant in the dormitory, which is the main content of a better dormitory life. A dormitory is like a home that provides warmth and comfort for its members. Fourthly, members enjoy a healthy lifestyle and are willing to face challenges that can improve themselves. This is the inner requirement of a better dormitory life.

**Following the Principle to Create a Better Dormitory Life**

**To Enhance the Awareness of "Wide Consultation"**

Members of the dormitory come from different places and have different personality, hygienic habits and eating habits. Meanwhile, some go to sleep at 10:00pm while others prefer to stay up late. Such differences make sharing the same room more challenging for students with strong self-consciousness. However, with wide consultation, co-existence could become easier. Members treat each other with sincerity and mutual accommodation, and consult with each other when necessary. Individuals learn to express their bottom line of interacting with others politely and clearly. This could help avoid conflicts.

**To Improve the Mechanism of “Joint Contribution”**

Firstly, the safety of members and property need rules and regulations from college administration. But only when all members observe the rules and regulations together, could the safety be guaranteed. Secondly, a clean and tidy space environment needs all members’ efforts. Besides tiding up his own desk, bed and other personal place, each member should work together to clean public area like floor, toilet in the dormitory. Based on discussion, the dormitory can make a duty roster and every individual takes turn to clean the room. Thirdly, comfortable and pleasant atmosphere needs all members’ sincerity, generosity and mutual trust. For those who often stay up late, they should take others’ need for sleep into consideration and try to make less noise. Fourthly, members in the same dormitory can coordinate on various academic projects, do sports or go outing together in the spare time, share feeling with each other, face challenges hand in hand.
To Share the Benefits of a Better Dormitory

A safe, clean and tidy dormitory with comfortable and pleasant atmosphere is the fruit of each member’s efforts. In return, such a dormitory benefits its members in many ways. First of all, it provides a feeling of home for members. Members feel relaxed and at ease back at dormitory after a day’s intense academic study. Secondly, if any member encounters trouble or frustration, room-mates can provide help or encouragement at the first time. Thirdly, even in a family there could be conflicts and confrontation, and it is the same with a dormitory. In the process of taking the initiative to deal with unavoidable conflicts and confrontation, members develop the ability to negotiate and compromise, which is the core of co-existing with others.

Conclusion

Despite various problems arising in the dormitory life, college students still have the chance to enjoy a better dormitory life as long as they follow the principle of Wide Consultation, Joint Contribution and Shared Benefits proposed by Xi. To follow the principle, students should first enhance the awareness of “Wide consultation”, and then improve the mechanism of “contribution”. Each member in the dormitory contributes his or her own effort to make the dormitory better. In return, they share the benefits of a safe, clean and tidy dormitory with comfortable and pleasant atmosphere. A dormitory is a tiny community with shared future for its members. To create a better dormitory life for all, each member is a participant, contributor and beneficiary.

References