Reviews on an Article of “Why Do I Support Interns for Suspension of Schooling” from Critical Thinking Perspective

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\textbf{Abstract.} An article of "why do I support interns for suspension of schooling" by a well-known social media figure, Mi Meng, has sparked a heated debate on the Internet. There are both pros and cons. However, all kinds of comments are based on their standpoint, where the perceptual is surplus, and the rational is insufficient. Standing in an objective and neutral position, we will make rational comments on this article from the perspective of critical thinking in this paper.

\textbf{Introduction}

On May 4, 2017, on the day of youth day, the famous self-media figure, Ms. Mi Meng, posted an article "why do I support interns for suspension of schooling" on her WeChat public platform. As soon as this article was published, it immediately caused an uproar on all the well-known social platforms. There are both pros and cons. However, all kinds of comments are based on their standpoint, where the perceptual is surplus, and the rational is insufficient. Standing in an objective and neutral position, we will make rational comments on this article from the perspective of critical thinking in this paper.

The remainder of this article is organized as follows: firstly we analyzes the main fallacies committed by this article and concludes with a summary.

\textbf{Thinking Fallacy of Appeal to Emotion}

Appeal to emotion is a way of winning arguments by manipulating people's emotions rather than effective logic. Emotions manipulated include fear, jealousy, compassion, pride, etc. A logical and rigorous argument may inspire other people's emotions, but if you use emotion rather than logic to make arguments, you will commit a thinking fallacy of appeal to emotion.

Ms. Mi Meng said as follows:

\textit{During the freshman year, we were confused, angry, struggling, and for months they were be accustomed to it.}

Here, Ms. Mi Meng has been using "confused", "anger" and "struggling" the emotional words, trying to arouse the reader's emotional resonance, and then use "be accustomed to" to suggest that all the students are numb to life. This kind of expression technique makes the thinking fallacy of "appeal to emotion" in logic, and also makes "scarecrow" thinking fallacy.

Ms. Mi Meng also said as follows:

\textit{She called her parents and said she didn't want to go back to school. She didn't want to dawdle away her time. She cried as she spoke.}

\textit{She said she regretted. I should suspend of school in my freshman year, but I suspended of school in my sophomore year, still wasted one year.}

\textit{Other people ask her, don't you want to miss a lot of things that university can give you? Such as classroom, friendship, college romances, community experiences, etc.}

\textit{She said, those things can be ignored if compared to my dreams.}
In the above text, intern Chen Xiaoxian didn't not want to go back to school, called her parents, and cried as she spoke. See here, since you have similar experience, she cried, so pitiful, you certainly want to support her idea to suspend of school.

Ms. Mi Meng has used a series of strong emotional words such as "cry", "regret", "waste" and "dream", tries to draw the reader's feeling of pity, fear and pride, leads to cause short-circuit fault in thinking, thus supports the viewpoint for interns to drop out of school’s. Mi Meng again committed the thinking fallacy of "appeal to emotion".

**Thinking Fallacy of Hasty Generalization**

A hasty generalization is a fallacy in which a conclusion is not logically proved by sufficient or unbiased evidence. Simply put, a hasty generalization is a broad claim based on too-limited evidence. Hence, hasty generalization is also called insufficient sample, faulty generalization, and biased generalization. By definition, an argument based on a hasty generalization always proceeds from the particular to the general.

For example, the swans I saw were white, indicating that the swans in the world must be white. The problem is that one can't see all the swans in the world, and no matter how many swans you see, it's just some partial exceptions to all the swans in the world. Ms. Mi Meng has committed a great deal of thinking fallacy of hasty generalization in this article.

In this article, Ms. Mi Meng said as follows:

orthy student whose major has been adjusted must be able to understand how painful it is to study a major that he doesn't like it.

Ms. Mi Meng uses the painful learning experience of intern Chen xiaoxian, who is suffering from her major to be adjusted, to assert that every student whose major has been adjusted must be very painful.

However, Ms. Mi Meng ignored the fact that most people, when they fill in the college entrance, are not aware of the connotation of various majors in college. In fact, they don't like or dislike the major they selected.

For those students who volunteer major was changed when admitted by the college, his new major is not the one he filled in, but is not necessarily dislike it, and often in the process of learning, he understood the connotation, function and fun of the new major, he will gradually like it. Here, Ms. Mi Meng draw a general conclusion based on individual cases, she has again committed a thinking fallacy of hasty generalization.

Nowadays, many courses in universities are too non-nutritive to waste of time and life.

Many teachers give their lectures, are extremely careless.

The intern said that some teachers forgot to bring a course ware PPT, simply downloaded a course ware thought the baidu platform, and directly read it out in the classes, they are real honest and frank, and too lazy to cover up their perfunctory.

Some teachers, their textbooks are 30 years ago, and even 50 years ago, which let you go through the past.

The most incredible thing is that many of the teachers who teach career planning and career counseling stay in the school after graduation with no real employment experience.

What they speak of the so-called "employment skills" maybe something you can learn from a book like "10 strokes of your employment" and other books like that.

It is no secret that there are some irresponsible teachers in colleges, whose teaching attitude is not upright and correct. However, most teachers still adhere to the ideal of teaching and educating people and take teaching seriously. Here, based on a few bad examples in the real world, Ms. Mi Meng drew a general conclusion for teachers in colleges to teach perfunctorily. So, she has again committed a thinking fallacy of hasty generalization.

Is college really the most exciting place for us to invent?

On the contrary, many people who have not been domesticated by the university have a powerful force of barbaric growth.

For example, Chizi in "Tucao conference", born in 1995, did not go to college, give a very great
talk show, we all like him;
    For example, Zou dandan in our company, who didn't go to college, has a strong talent in scriptwriting.

Here, Ms. Mi Meng is still use individual cases that two people who did not go to college have a special talent to make a universal conclusion that the people who didn't go to college have a powerful force of barbaric growth. Apparently, she always enjoy committing a thinking fallacy of hasty generalization. In fact, the strength of barbaric growth may be really powerful, but the result of the kind of growth is not always positive, and the success is undoubtedly very few and should not be the universal objective law; otherwise, the university should be completely dissolved.

According to the public information, Ms. Mi Meng is a master of literature in Shandong University. After graduation, she went to the southern department of the media and worked for 12 years, she became the chief editor of department of Shenzhen magazine in the southern metropolis daily. Her growth record is a standard map road of elite, which is high education, high platform, high experience for famous universities, and runs counter to the way she preached to belittle University education.

Thinking Fallacy of False Analogy

The analogy is a method of reasoning which draws a conclusion about the relative unknown characteristics of the other side based on the known similarity between two things. Analogy reasoning is a commonly used method to support conclusions with evidence. The analogy not only inspires us, but also deceives us. The improper analogy is not to compare the similarities and differences between two things in many ways, simply presume the two things be similar in other aspects just because the two are similar in one aspect.

In the past, I went to take part in an activity, and the CEO of mobike, Hu weiwei, said a word:
    Chinese people are doing things that are bound to be successful. I want to do things that might fail.
    What we need most, the school and the parents have not taught us, is the courage to screw up a thing.

Although not clearly stated, this passage is to use analogy to delude young students to drop out of school. This is a sign of courage, even if they suffer from the lose because of a failure to suspend school.

Firstly, mobike of Hu Weiwei is a innovation for the benefit of society, while the suspension of schooling of intern has nothing to do with entrepreneurship and innovation. It is wrong to draws an analogy with the two things which have the essential difference between each other. The conclusions based on false analogy are not credible.

Secondly, there is a contradiction among the words of Hu wei wei, the CEO of mobike. Chinese people are doing things that are bound to be successful. Isn't he Chinese? I want to do things that might fail. There are two possibilities for success and failure in everything you do. As you may fail, you also may succeed. If you're really pursuing failure, it's too easy to make any special effort. Saying in this way by Hu Weiwei said is just to express his adventurous spirit.

Thirdly, why do we need to have the courage to screw up something? Do we expect success or fail? What we advocate is the courage to take risks rather than the courage to deliberately screw up something.

Ms. Mi Meng tries to cause short-circuit fault in your thinking with the vague, abstract, positive words such as "courage", and make you accept her viewpoint.

The above paragraph not only committed a thinking fallacy of false analogy, but also committed thinking fallacies of self-contradiction and halo effect.
Thinking Fallacy of Disguised Replacement of Concept

One concept is some seem like the concept of change, actually change the modifiers and the concept of the applicable scope, and refers to the object specific connotation. Disguised replacement of concept is to exchange some seemingly identical concepts and actually change the connotation of the concept such as modifier, scope of application and indicated object. Disguised replacement of concept can be rhetorical skills, can also be used to make a lobbying for people, but in fact, this is a thinking fallacy of misleading. It can be rhetorical skills, or it can be used to lobby people, but in fact it's just misleading. Disguised replacement of concept is that the speaker deliberately changes the original argument or core words, transfer the attention of the readers or listeners, in order to achieve the winning effect in the debate.

Of course, I have a strong support for interns to drop out of school, and there is another important reason, because I can guarantee that I can learn more than 100 times more in my company than in college.

The progress we've made here is measured in hours.

Here, the speed of self-renewal is too fast.

Every day is full of unknown, full of uncertainty. If you don't make progress, you will have great fear. At the same time, a great deal of pressure will make you learn to discipline yourself.

That is all a university can't teach you.

I also completely disagree, people outside always agitate that the born in 1995 were the beat generation, do not like to study.

Every time our company's training, everyone are all dying for it, wish to go to the teacher's eyes in order to listen, even wish to kidnap the teacher.

Here, she claims that college students who work as interns in her company can learn more than 100 times as much as they learn in college. We're not going to ask her how she figured out this multiple, but want to consider that she deliberately change the two concepts of college and college classroom. The company can really learn a lot to learn in the university classroom, but it is a part of the university practice teaching plan, practice unit and university classroom as students learning places, and called the second class university. An intern in a company can really learn a lot of things he cannot learn in the university, but practice is the part of university teaching plan, the internship units, like the university classroom, is a place for students to learn, which is called as second classroom in university. She tried to win the favor of the young students by praising their diligence, let young students cause short-circuit fault in thinking, accept her brainwashing, believe her company has high gold content, be worth dropping out of school for an internship.

In the above paragraph, Ms. Mi Meng not only committed a thinking fallacy of disguised replacement of concept, but also committed thinking fallacy of appeal to emotion.

Thinking Fallacy of False Premise

The fallacy that contains false premises is that the premise of an argument has no evidence to support, because the assumption whose evidence is insufficient is unproven, therefore the whole argument is not credible. Since the premise is wrong, the hypothetical proposition is also wrong, therefore, the conclusion drawn by the hypothetical proposition is incorrect. Although this argument is logically valid, but the conclusion is wrong, because its first premise is false.

False premise refers to the argument that a speaker intentionally violates the argumentation rule that the premises have to be known as true, who use the fabricated so-called "authoritative theory" or the example made out of nothing as evidence to make so-called argument. The reason for this illogical fallacy may be that the speaker lacks common sense, or perhaps the speaker deliberately tries to fake and fabricate arguments. If a person assumes that something is true without sufficient evidence, then he has committed the thinking fallacy of false premise.

Ms. Mi Meng also said as follows:

More and more students don't want to attend classes for more than 30 days a month.
At the age of 18-22 years old, they wasted the whole of 4 years. Dropping out of school may be a way to save time and cherish life.

In colleges, there are some students who are weary of studying, but most of the students are serious about the study, saying of "more and more students, every month has more than 30 days do not want to class" is deliberately distorted according without any factual basis. Based on this false premise, Ms. Mi Meng concluded that, students wasted whole of 4 years at the age of 18-22 years old, and further concluded that they would rather drop out of school to do an internship than do nothing in college. Here, Ms. Mi Meng has committed the thinking fallacy of false premise.

Conclusion

In conclusion, the article "why do I support interns for suspension of schooling" has a lot of thinking fallacies, where many of those thinking fallacies are very low. Ms. Mi Meng had been using a lot of very low thinking fallacies such as appealing to emotion, hasty generalization, false premise and nonsense fallacy, tried to hype usefulness of studies, promote harmful values, persuade students to drop out of school. The existence of these thinking fallacies not only reduces the persuasion of the article, but also disparaged the reputation of Ms. Mi Meng.

As a well-known senior media person, Ms. Mi Meng should have high media literacy, especially critical thinking quality, should not make so much lower thinking fallacies. The cause of these fallacies is largely limited to her personal emotion and standpoint. The personal emotion and standpoint of the author made a great destructive effect on the objectivity and neutrality.

Reference

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