



Freedom and Obedience Self-Discipline and Morality

Intermediate (Classes 7-10)



Freedom and Obedience - Pestalozzi Values Education (A Pestalozzi Approach)

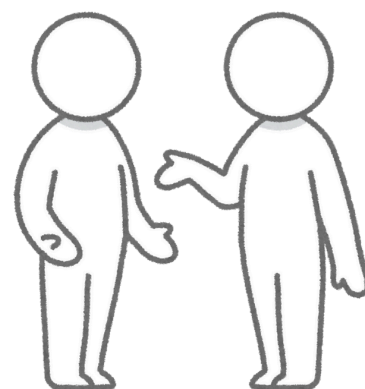
The facilitator melts the wax and, in front of the participants, pours it into the dice mould, meanwhile asking the participants what would happen if the wax was poured and there was no frame. While the wax solidifies, the facilitator asks the participants to think of the different times in the day when they have to obey and the different times when they are free. The facilitator asks questions to generate a discussion, for example whether the students feel they have to obey too much and if so when, and whether they are ever given too much freedom and if so when.

Once the wax has hardened the facilitator removes the frame, makes the cube into a dice by adding dots or numbers and the dice is then tossed between the students. The teacher asks the participants what they now observe about the wax and what effect the frame has had on it. The facilitator elicits the analogy from the participants, explaining it if necessary: The melted wax needs the wooden frame to give it shape, just as a child needs discipline from family, teachers and society, and needs to obey that discipline to help create his or her self-disciplined, moral character. Once the cube is made, the wax can be developed into something further, a dice, just as an adult who has been disciplined in childhood, can more easily develop his or her own moral character in later life. The dice can then be tossed around without spoiling it; it has 'freedom'. In the same way, someone who has fully developed morality and humanity can experience freedom without risk to his or her moral character.

The facilitator continues the discussion with an exploration of the value of obedience; the facilitator asks the participants what is made easier for them as a result of past obedience. For example, it may be easier to get up early now if as a child the individual always had to get up early.

Materials Needed

- Large sheets of paper and different coloured marker pens
- Blu-tack
- Wax
- Dice mould





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Continued

Although Pestalozzi believed that children should never be forced to learn something against their wills and should have as much freedom as possible in the way they learn, he also recognised the value of obedience. Pestalozzi believed that without discipline and obedience, children would run wild and fall into bad habits.

Pestalozzi stated that family, teachers and society should be the children's guides to achieving full humanity and morality, and that to achieve humanity and morality children must learn obedience to them.

