

It will be the abolishment of the education curriculum itself that will create an educational revolution



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Yoshiyuki KASAI

Chairman, Central Japan Railway Company (JR Tokai)

In order for higher education to be effective, it is essential to gain basic knowledge and to acquire a wide range of culture in elementary and secondary education, i.e. in elementary, junior high and senior high schools. The fundamental point of education is to provide the right combination of “learn,” “think” and “act” in order to foster well-balanced people.

It is particularly vital to learn “reading, writing and arithmetic” well. Gaining basic knowledge can only be achieved through rote learning. However, the concept of rote learning and the concept of enjoyable learning contradict with each other. Therefore, in order for students to efficiently learn “reading, writing and arithmetic,” it is important that the teachers have sufficient expertise, enthusiasm, physical health and a bright personality.

However, excellent personnel who have these abilities are prevented from becoming teachers, due to the current school teachers’ licensing system for elementary and secondary education, as well as due to the additional burdens of the teacher training courses. This comes from the protectionism of the closed educational circle where those who have graduated from university education faculties are employed rather than those who have excellent knowledge gained in specialized faculties at graduate schools. Teachers who have the sufficient knowledge and enthusiasm to communicate the knowledge to students can stimulate children’s intellectual curiosity and improve their motivation. If such teachers teach basic knowledge efficiently, the children will be able to gain the necessary knowledge within a shorter period of time. Inefficient public school education takes the time to “think” and “act” away from children.

For children, “thinking” means that they

freely imagine and daydream. Most of their lives are still ahead of them and they have infinite possibilities. Imagining what kind of life they may choose from all these possibilities is not only enjoyable daydreaming but also an important and intellectual game. Only by gaining basic intellectual abilities through studying, can children enjoy reading books and using their imagination. This can lead to ideas about what they want to learn in higher education in the future or how to live their lives freely and creatively. Therefore, children learn the wisdom needed to adapt to human society through studying, imagining and acting based on their own will. For the children in elementary and secondary education, to “act” is to interact and play with friends. Through these activities, children will have their first experience of studying human society which will be needed when they become working adults.

The current elementary and secondary education system, which employs teachers who have insufficient expertise and enthusiasm as well as using an ineffective curriculum, is reducing the efficiency for children’s learning considerably and is wasting children’s time. In order for Japanese higher education to be world-class, it is essential that elementary and secondary education stimulate children’s curiosity and provide children with the necessary knowledge. The public elementary and secondary education circle, from the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology down, is preventing the improvements needed to achieve such an education. The school teachers’ licensing system and the teacher training courses are used by them to protect their interests. It is necessary to acknowledge that reforming these systems is an urgent issue.

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