

GRE (R.) テスト Issue Task

トピック: 教育者の役割

In Japan, where I live in, we have experienced the prolonged recession. The Ministry of Education and Science has decided to establish new programs for law and accounting. The social requirements for fair auditing and needs for legal staff facilitated and requested the United States-type law schools and accounting school as well as MBA programs. In a sense, educators have knowledge on specific subjects; however, they do not match to the trends of society. My perspective on the issue is that students should decide which curriculum should be offered in higher education institutions. Here, I show some examples to support my opinion.

When I studied in the United States, many students tried to master Japanese as a second language. This phenomenon or fashion was due to the then prosperous Japanese economy. Many students at MBA programs wanted to make connections and be hired by Japanese firms. Thus, schools had to offer credits to those who studied the second language. On the other hand, I took a course of French as a language. Our school did not permit to count credits of French class into my credits. Thus, students in a higher education know what the society requires better than educators.

Here in Japan, from next year, Japanese government accredits law schools which are very similar to those of the United States. The Enron case and other frauds accelerate the needs for lawyers and auditors. Japan used to be a society of compromise; though, the situation has changed radically, and the number of legal affairs has increased. In case of education, the most important factor to be considered is what the society needs. How can educators who stick to their own disciples adapt to the social change? I doubt their ability or flexibility. Students are seeking the future, and educators are living now.

As a teacher of TOEFL and other examinations, I always struggle to meet with the new standard. I decided to use Criterion as a method to evaluate students' writing abilities. Students fully utilize the system.

These are my opinions on a higher education. However, for the elementary and secondary education, we should put emphasis on more moral issues. In Japan, there is a high rate of juvenile delinquencies. This trend will continue to speed up. We should not forget to teach basic knowledge and ways of thinking to those immature young adults.

For example, murder cases happen quite frequently today. Most young adults are exempted from severe sentences; thus, they kill homeless people mercilessly.

At the same time, I feel that today's students' math ability has declined. The Ministry of Education and Sciences decided to teach irrational numbers in simple figures. Today, I have difficulties in teaching math to those who already graduated from universities. Some students do not know what irrational numbers mean.

One solution, I suggest is that we should create a sort of board in which educators and students discuss which subjects should be taught. Students are not a roped dog. They have their own desires. By creating a board or curriculum committee will be a solution to merge both educators' perspective and students' perspective. Then, the board member can create the most suitable curricula for students, including selective courses which students are not required to take mandatory. Selective courses will enable students to determine their future. The interactive course will be also very effective, I believe.

As a conclusion, I insist that we, educators, should not be arrogant enough to put emphasis on our own doctrines. As was a case of Galileo who revised the old theory of the Earth's rotation, we have no definite answers to the social and natural sciences. Educators should be more moderate to perceive and observe the fact. At the same time, we should put emphasis on ethics and basic knowledge on sciences to lower educations. Without ethics, we cannot sustain the future society. Without math, we will not create innovations. Students have very keen sense of acquiring knowledge which our society or recruiters request. Those practical subjects as well as basic elements are necessary for education.

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