

Cooperation between School and University for Training World's Leading Teachers

Mancheol Suh

(President of Kongju National University)

1. Introduction

Training great teachers is not just an important national task but a grave responsibility that must be assumed by the universities with teacher education program. Great education cannot exist without great teachers and a country cannot achieve great development without great education. In this respect, training excellent teachers is all the more crucial for all of us.

Acknowledging the importance of teacher education, multilateral efforts have been made in Korea on a national level to train great teachers. The curriculum has been changed to provide education in line with school situations and increased the guidance and counseling on students to keep pace with their changes. On top of this, smart education is recommended to adapt to the changes in IT communications and educational environment. Furthermore, teacher certification program has been established to develop teachers who satisfy the national requirements.

To nurture teachers capable enough to adapt to the changes in society and schools, universities are also making a considerable amount of effort to develop the abilities of teachers before they start teaching in schools. In other words, daily counseling is provided more frequently to enable them to develop capabilities to understand the changes in students and guide them while an in-depth teaching method is shared to firmly stabilize the teaching-learning method.

With all these efforts on a national and university level, however, many discrepancies are found between school and university in terms of teacher education program. After graduating from a university, teachers have faced with many difficulties when they met with students in a school they were first appointed to and even had to confront issues they have never experienced before. This is due to the fact that teacher education did not offer any program that allows them to provide education based on the practical needs of schools.

Against this backdrop, this symposium aims to seek a solution associating with both school and university by identifying these very crucial and timely matters. To this end, changes around the world and schools will be looked into first to propose an alternative for both school and university in order to successfully deal with these changes on the

macro view.

2. Rapidly Changing World

One of the reasons that hinder school education is a rapidly changing world. The traditional way of education was focused on textbooks. With the development of computers and the Internet, however, a teaching method has to change as well by utilizing extensive amount information scattered all around the world. This has brought about both positive and negative impacts. In this sense, we will study the changes around us all over the world by looking into rapid development of IT & transportation, dramatic increase in knowledge, widening educational gaps and diversified social pathological phenomenon. Of course, there are different kinds of changes out there but the focus will be fixated on the changes that hugely affect education.

First off, IT communications and transportation have seen a rapid development. One-month travel to Seoul has been shortened to two to three-hour one and three-month trip to the US is now no more than 12 hours. What is more dramatic is the development of IT communications. The Internet has brought about borderless world, making different time zones useless. Thanks to the web, people are now able to get access to the Internet wherever they are at the same time. This has allowed us to use extensive amount of information and expanded the range of textbook-based education, generating a new type of education that makes the most of tons of various information produced from all parts of the world. Indeed, it is not exaggerating to say that the Internet has actually made a Korean singer who sang the song, "Gangnam Style," all the more famous. Just in three months, more than 300 million Internet users watched his music video. This was all possible thanks to the Internet and YouTube which allow the global users to enjoy content simultaneously.

Second, the amount of knowledge has increased exponentially. It took 150 years for it to double in the 1850s, 50 years in the 1950s and 5 years in 1985, fastening the pace of knowledge growth to two to three years lately. Smartphones accelerated such a trend even with a faster pace, making the knowledge gained from the first year of college obsolete by the third year. As such, an education that focuses only on delivering knowledge has neither significance nor value. The education of today is not about knowing what or why but it is about knowing where it came from and how to utilize it.

Third, these dramatic changes in society are bringing about side effects. One of the most evident phenomena is the widening gap between the wealthy and the poor. Transforming into the knowledge and information-based society, such a gap worsened as many people have been reduced to manual or casual workers. This led to a decrease

in the middle-income class, cutting the number of the core people capable of leading the society but increasing the number of the poor, which ultimately caused growing social conflicts.

Last but not least, the phenomenon of social pathology has been diversified as it expanded from conflicts between the haves and the have-nots to the ones among the people who failed to adapt to and discontent with the society. As a result, various types of social pathological phenomenon have occurred such as random crimes.

3. Rapidly Changing Schools

Schools have also seen dramatic changes along with rapid social changes. The physical development among students is one of the most marked changes along with their family backgrounds. This has widened an academic gap even further and caused more students to fail in adapting to school. To be more exact, today's students have seen great changes in their physical development. In 1988, the sixth male graders were 142.9 cm high on average but became taller to 150.5 cm in 2009, gaining more weight from 35.7 kg to 44.0 kg. In general, such physical changes used to occur during adolescence but elementary students are experiencing these physical developments much early on.

Second, more and more students are from different types of families. Even though it is different by region to region, a growing number of international marriages have generated multicultural families, outnumbering the students of multicultural family from the students of Korean family. Under the circumstances, we are faced with the reality where we have to change the way to educate and guide these students from different family backgrounds.

Third, there is a huge academic gap among students. This is due to the fact that some students cannot afford to learn from private institutions or tutors. Combined with regional and family backgrounds, such an academic difference is becoming a huge social issue. Students who cannot adjust to school are also likely to fail to adapt when they enter into society for the first time, provoking them to cause social issues.

Fourth, more and more students fail to adapt to school in various ways. Underachieving students are being ostracized by fellow students or choose to be an outcast or involved in school violence. Against this backdrop, we need to apply various types of methods to counsel and guide these students in the right way.

4. Training Teachers to the Needs of Rapidly Changing World and School

To become a great and talented teacher, he or she needs to be equipped with the ability to provide education customized to the needs of students. To this end, teachers must be

trained in a way that they can provide education catering to both schools and students. This is why schools and universities must go hand in hand in order for universities to provide curriculum required by schools. To train excellent teachers in this rapidly changing world, we have some works to do.

First, we should provide education in line with the latest trend of IT communications. Students should be able to gain access to and utilize all sorts of information through various channels wherever they are as we are living in an era where smartphones are utilized for education. To make this happen, teachers should be fully prepared by fully identifying all the details of information literacy of schools.

Second, students are changing in many different ways than they used to be in the past. It is important to recognize their changes and provide appropriate guidance. Namely, we need to seek a way to address the issues students are going through and have them to learn to resolve the problems at hand by themselves. Teachers should be capable enough to counsel students bullied by other fellow students, involved in school violence, whose family background is multicultural and underachieving academically.

Third, it is also necessary to provide teacher education that can meet various conditions from region to region and diverse forms of education such as education for the gifted or the handicapped.

The proposal we made today is focusing on on-site education, meaning that the curriculum of school education should be determined by the needs of schools. Only by satisfying the needs of school, can we train teachers who satisfy the requirements of schools in return.

5. Conclusion

Training teachers is an imperative assignment not just for a country but also for universities. To successfully achieve this assignment, schools and universities should cooperate in training teachers to the needs of schools. For this, universities first should take initiatives in dealing with changes in the society. Teachers should be able to know how they can respond to social changes and provide education accordingly. In addition, teachers should be able to handle the changes in schools proactively. As changes in students and schools are happening hand in hand, they need to learn how to deal with these changes. Lastly, schools and universities should collaborate so as to respond to changes in the society and schools aggressively. After all, it is practically impossible to train great teachers to the needs of schools without close cooperation between these two parties.

Reference

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