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**Reduce the Expense on Private Education**

Lots of students in South Korea receive private education[[1]](#footnote-1), and too much money is spent on private education. Statistics Korea and the Ministry of Education reported that the total expense on private education in 2016 was 18 trillion won, which was a 1.3%p (200 million won) increase, compared to 2015. Additionally, the expense on private education per student was 256 thousand won, which is the greatest amount since 2007. They analyzed that the increased expenses of high school students was the main cause of this increase. In Korea, high school students study hard and compete to get admission to major Korean universities. Students compete because universities evaluate students by examining one’s high school GPA (grade point average) or by examining the scores of university entrance exams. (The former evaluation method is called ‘Susi’) Meanwhile, according to the announcement of Korean Council for University Education[[2]](#footnote-2), major universities in Korea are increasing the number of students admitted by the Susi evaluation method. To put it in another way, this meant that high school students will have a better chance of getting admission to major universities through Susi and students will put more effort for high GPA. However, since high school GPA is a method of relative evaluation, high school students have to compete with each other for better GPA and this

leads high school students to get more private education. This is the main cause of increase[[3]](#footnote-3) and the high expenses on private education. Since the expenses are too costly, it should be reduced.

Considering that the main cause of high expenses on private education was due to high school students, the Ministry of Education will introduce absolute evaluation system into university entrance exam, lessening the burden on studying and expenses on private education. University Admission Section Chief Kim of Ministry of Education wrote in his article[[4]](#footnote-4) that the current university entrance exam, which evaluates students relatively, makes students compete more and spend lots of money on private education. However, under absolute evaluation system, there exists pre-set ranges of scores with ratings, and the students in the same range are evaluated equally. For instance, students with scores 90 to 100 in the exam will be evaluated equally as ‘Class 1’. Thus students won’t have to compare themselves with other students, which will reduce competition that relative evaluation caused. Kim also wrote that this change to absolute evaluation doesn’t mean that the exams are going to get easier, so students should still put effort on English. He also emphasized that introducing the absolute evaluation system was carefully considered and reviewed. On a survey for parents, teachers, and professors, 60.4% replied that the intentions of the Ministry on introducing absolute evaluation system is meaningful and this changed system will be very effective.

Despite the changes, I think absolute evaluation system will not solve the problem of high expenses on private education. An article[[5]](#footnote-5) posted on Veritas Alpha, a newspaper specialized on education, wrote about the expenses of private education after the absolute evaluation system comes into action. “Yoon Sun Saeng”, a professional English education enterprise, conducted a survey[[6]](#footnote-6) on parents, about their expenditure plans on private education under absolute evaluation system. Unlike what the Ministry intended, 82.9% of parents plan to keep the expenses the same as before, 10.3% of parents plan to increase their expenses. Only 6.8% of parents replied they will reduce their expenses. The 93.2% of parents who are not going to reduce their expenses replied that they are not reducing it mainly because English skill is important regardless of exams. (51.8%) Another reason was because parents think it will be hard to get good scores on English exams without private education. Thus, the Ministry’s solution, introducing absolute evaluation system on university entrance English exams will not work as they intended.

**Works Cited**

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[2] Jang, Eun Kyo, “Expenses on private education of high school students increased by 320 billion won, ‘Explain this, Education Ministry!’”, *Kyung Hyang Newspaper*, 16 March 2017. Web. 4 May 2017. <http://news.khan.co.kr/kh_news/khan_art_view.html?artid=201703161616001&code=940401>

[3] Kim, Du Yong, “Absolute evaluation system to be introduced to be introduced to university entrance English exams in academic year 2018”, *Ministry of Education*, Web. 4 May 2017. <http://happyedu.moe.go.kr/happy/bbs/selectHappyArticle.do?nttId=3741&bbsId=BBSMSTR_000000000197>

[4] Park, Eun Jeong, “93% of parents: ‘Not going to reduce expenses on private education despite the absolute evaluation on university entrance English exam.’”, *Veritas Alpha*, 23 Feb 2015. Web 4 May 2017, <http://www.veritas-a.com/news/articleView.html?idxno=37464>

1. Statistics Korea reported that 67.8% of students are participating in private education. [1] [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. Article from Kyung Hyang Newspaper, [2] [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. This analysis was done by group called ‘World without Worries on Private Education’, [2] [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
4. “Absolute evaluation system to be introduced to university entrance English exams in academic year 2018”, [3] [↑](#footnote-ref-4)
5. “93% of parents: ‘Not going to reduce expenses on private education despite the absolute evaluation on university entrance English exam.’” [4] [↑](#footnote-ref-5)
6. From article [4] [↑](#footnote-ref-6)