

PERSPECTIVE

Education

Since the inception of advanced civilizations, education has been the center of the spotlight; education has the power to provide and nurture not only knowledge, but also intellectual development. Thus, education has been regarded as a privilege throughout history, often becoming a platform of discrimination for gender, race, and wealth. This edition aims to investigate how education impacts modern day society.



Dux vol.5

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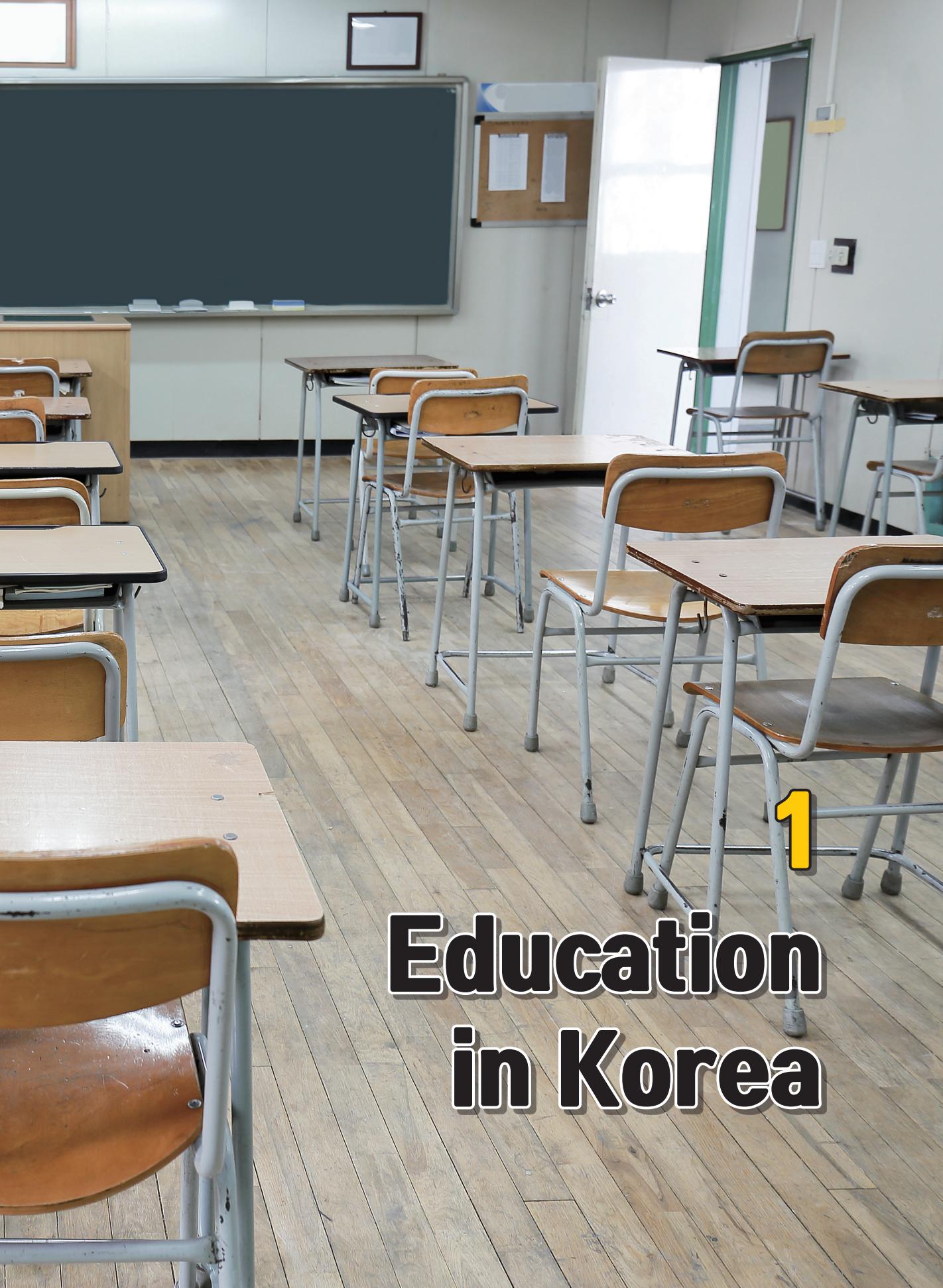
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Education in Korea



Stress and Pressure from Education in Korea

Andrew Kim

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Education is one of the main factors to the development of the human race and the world itself. The world's educational system is meant and built for providing knowledge in an attempt of helping others become successful. In Korea, the educational system is no different. According to the World Top 20 Project Poll, South Korea was the most well educated country in 2017, winning for the fourth consecutive year. The South Korean educational system, however, does have devastating downsides. Students in South Korea are extremely pressured from school work and their parents' expectations. Although South Korea is the most well educated country, it is the most pressuring and strict country when it comes to education.

South Korean teens and youths all suffer from a lot of anxiety and depression because of their school work, and their expectations. According to OZY, "South Korea has one of the worst mental health problems in the industrialized world, but Korean people routinely ignore symptoms." South Koreans and South Korean teens ignore these signs of depression because these students need to keep their competitive spirit in order to reach others' (mainly their parents') expectations. This competitive spirit about academics in Korea mostly comes from the punishments Koreans get from not getting good grades. However, the South Koreans' depression from high expectations doesn't end there. In fact, many teens commit suicide for this reason.

Suicide in South Korea is the 10th highest rate in the world according to the World Health Organization, as well as the second highest suicide rate in the OECD after Lithuania. This was always a huge issue for South Korea as suicide was their fourth highest cause of death in 2012. Also, according to YONHAP NEWS AGENCY, “The [research] also showed that 45 percent of people aged between 13 and 24 said they suffered from stress in 2018, down from 46.2 percent in 2016, with stress from work and school being the main contributors.” However, there are also other issues for these numbers such as self-shaming due to expectations in beauty, bullying, high unemployment, and or criticism online. However, the pressured teens in Korea have it worse because of all these issues adds onto their academic pressure.

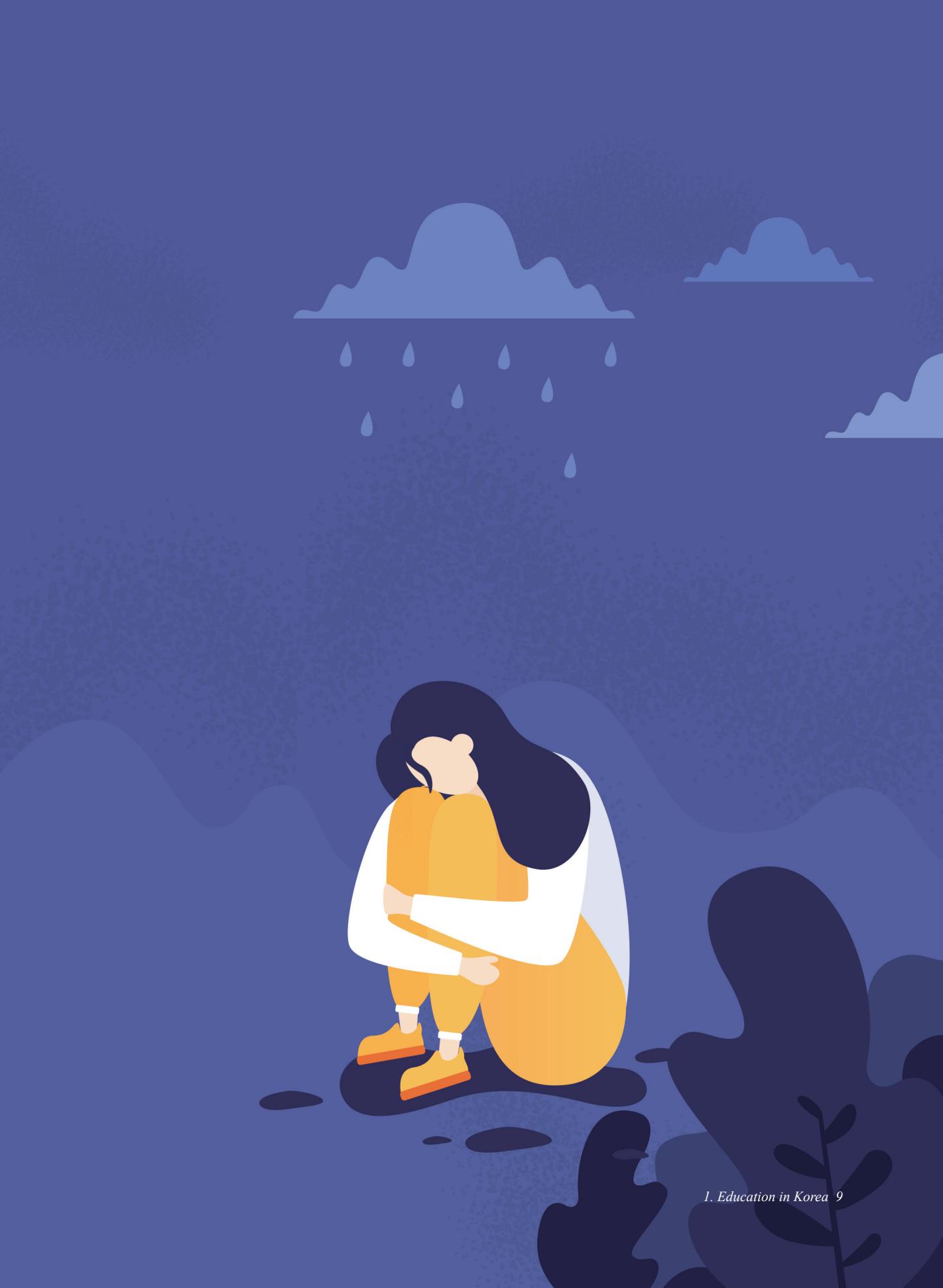


The issue of suicide in South Korea has continued on for several tens of years, infamously symbolizing its tough educational system and parenting. Although there have been several controversies, a real solution is yet to be proposed. According to experts, Korea's population is already decreasing as its birth rate is just about less than one baby. Experts explain that this number is not big enough to positively sustain the South Korean population, as it is expected for South Koreans to be near extinct by 2050. Suicide being one of its main causes of death does need an immediate solution. Mostly, the Korean mindset should be to change the way of parenting and setting brutal expectations for teens. To prevent suicide, the parent – child relationship is key, which shows that a parent must emotionally and mentally protect or support their child more. When improving parenting within a family, it enhances not only the quality time spent together, but it improves the health of South Koreans in general.

South Korean students have the most pressure in the country, if not one of the most pressured groups of people in the world. South Korean teens feel extremely forced by society, parents, teachers, and friends to reach general success. What it means and feels to be pressured is to get inflicted with a huge amount of burden usually because of others' expectations. South Korean teens that are possessed by the force of harsh expectations usually end up ending their own lives, and there is also not an evident solution to this issue. This fact about South Korea has been the conception of its parenting and educational system for a long time, and this is truly a crisis. Korea has the second highest suicide rate, Korea is one of the most psychologically unhealthy countries, and Korea has teens and students that are in need of mental help and are undergoing extreme stress.

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The Path to Success... or Failure?

Katherine Lee

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Winter vacation is approaching, but for many South Korean students it's not a vacation at all. Students are busier than ever during the winter, even more so than when attending normal classes at school. They rush to "hagwons", or cram schools, for prerequisite learning ahead of the new academic year. Recently, studying in advance for content in higher grade levels has become more and more popular and accepted. With daily hagwon classes for mathematics, science, English, and more, winter vacation is the prime time for students to take initiative and improve their academic performance. Due to its commonality, many South Korean parents practice this method of prerequisite learning and extreme academic pressure on their children from an extremely young age. But to what extent is this practice even affective?

The Korean school system is based on six years of elementary school (age 6-12), three years of junior high school (age 12-15) and three years of senior high school (15-18). One of the most important milestones in a typical Korean student's life is when they take the infamous Korean university entrance exam in high school and decide what universities that are eligible in applying for. "Suneung", the annual college entrance exam that takes place every November, defines the future of these Korean teens. In a hierarchical country such as South Korea, the university one attends plays an extremely significant role in the person's future, such as finding a suitable job and hence a well-to-do position in society. Consequently, some Korean parents are

willing to do anything for their children from when they are mere toddlers in order to be one step of the others on the path to success.

These days, many even believe that entering a certain kindergarten can make a difference in a child's future because it affects their chances of getting into a good elementary school, middle school, high school, and ultimately, a prestigious university. This leads to a staggering amount of students in South Korea attending these extracurricular "hagwons" to learn curriculum in advance and always strive to be the best academically, proven by the fact that the average student in South Korea works up to 13 hours a day, while the average high school student sleeps only five and a half hours a night to spare time for studying. Countless statistics by companies like Statistics Korea show worrying numbers on the amount of young children and teens plagued by the pressure of academic expectations, even leading to extreme measures such as suicide. Since 2007, suicide has been the highest cause of death for people between the ages of 9 and 24; 7.7 people out of 100,000 in this group would commit suicide in 2017 compared to 3.4 deaths caused by other accidents or fatal diseases.

The South Korean government has taken considerable legislative measures in recent years to lessen the societal and academic burden on Korea's young population that was so harmful to them. One example is banning cram schools from operating past 10 pm every night. However, in order for real changes to become evident, Korea's society and culture must first reevaluate its values of success and happiness.

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School Curriculum





Should cursive be taught in schools?

Andrew Nam

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Cursive writing is a style of writing where the letters are joined together in a flowing manner to write quickly. Cursive writing in contemporary society is less frequently seen compared to the '80s or the '90s. Since technology improves as time passes by, more people type rather than writing with a pencil and pen. While it is true that cursive writing is becoming less and less taught in schools, the importance of cursive writing remains today. Cursive writing can still be seen a lot in conservative schools, but there is certainly no denying that the art of cursive writing decreases as time passes by. Cursive writing has a lot of benefits. Most importantly, cursive helps in a variety of different ways to develop the brain.

First and foremost, writing letters down on a piece of paper is far more significant than pushing keyboards. When students write in cursive, they generally have a better understanding of the language in general, and studies show that an individual learns more when connecting letters by hand compared to writing notes on a keyboard and a virtual screen. Children need to understand the English language before these kids move on and type on a virtual screen. When writing, writing with a pen and paper using cursive significantly improves ones understanding of the language since a person is able to understand the meaning of each word when writing in cursive. A lot of skill is required when writing in cursive - some of these processes existing simultaneously

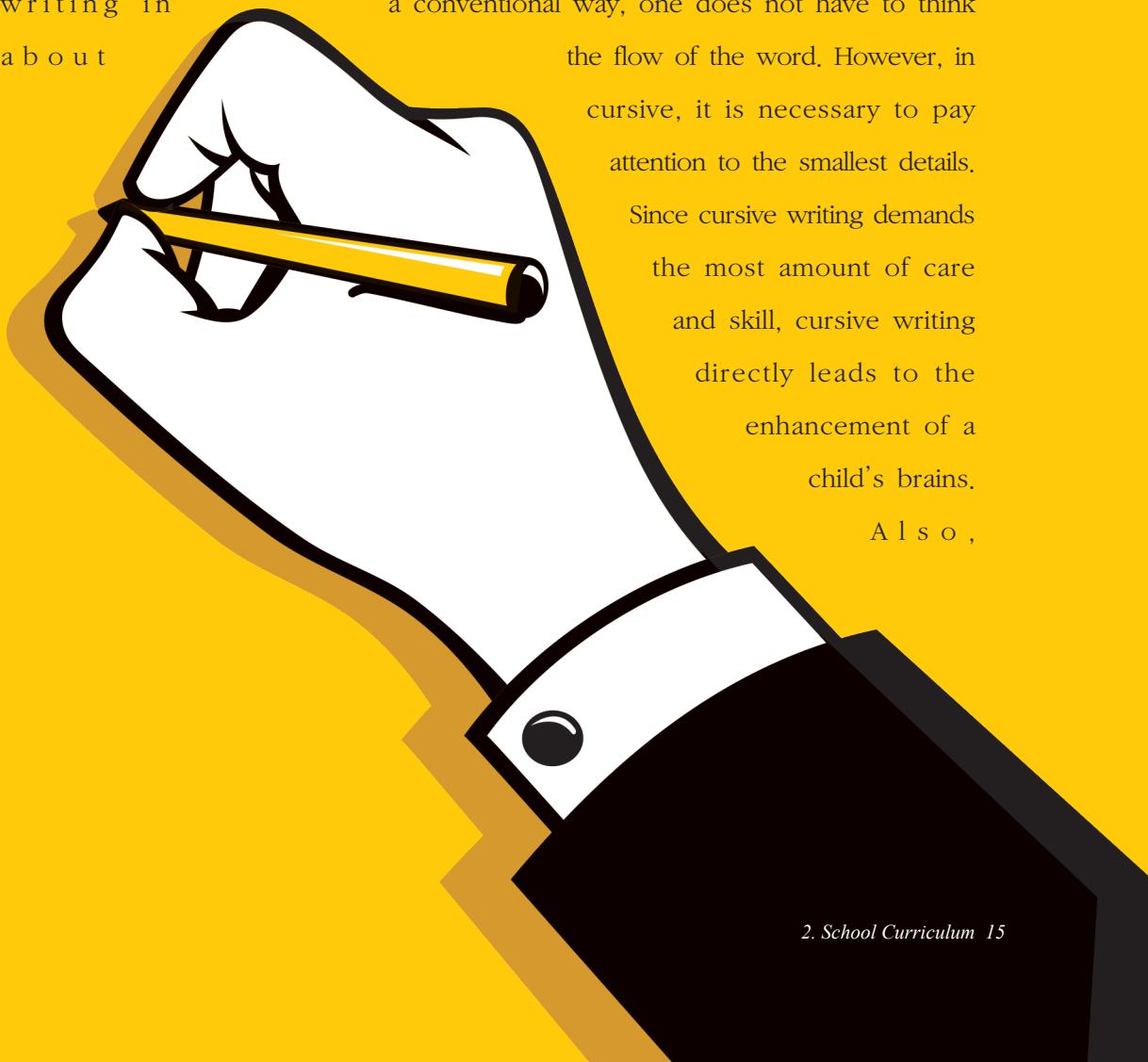
when writing in this particular type of way. The movement of the hand, the thought of the letter and much more are some skills that are required when writing in cursive. The skills mentioned above can be classified as reading and writing in a concurrent manner, which is essential to every student.

Secondly, cursive writing, in general, makes children smarter. According to William Klemm, a senior professor of Neuroscience at Texas A&M University, practicing by hand helps the brain to ingratiate a lot of information at once. He also went on to state that cursive writing is the most effective way to write; in order to get the most out of writing in a specific given time. This could be seen as cursive writing requires more skill and concentration compared to standard writing. When

w r i t i n g i n
a b o u t

a conventional way, one does not have to think the flow of the word. However, in cursive, it is necessary to pay attention to the smallest details. Since cursive writing demands the most amount of care and skill, cursive writing directly leads to the enhancement of a child's brains.

A l s o ,



Professor William Klemm added on to say that cursive writing provides similar benefits to playing an instrument. Both activities are known to enrich the creativity of a child. Just like playing instruments, more and more schools should offer cursive writing a basic course.

While contemporary society necessitates students to type and learn to use technological devices, it is still essential to remember and utilize cursive writing. It is known for a fact that cursive writing has its benefits, so, therefore, it should be used more in our current world. It is true that cursive writing may be hard to learn and master, but it significantly enhances a child's creativity and organization skills. Adding on, cursive can help for those struggling with disorders. Cursive can be a way of treatment for those unfortunate ones with dyslexia or autism. As an alternative to handwriting standard writing, reading and writing in cursive can positively impact an individual's cognitive and skills.

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Opinion: Period Education Revolution

Rachel Lee

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I felt from the moment I woke up a strange sensation. It was the summer before seventh grade, so I knew I hadn't wet the bed; it was only until I glanced at the red stain on my sheets that I realized it was blood. A girl's first period signals that she is blossoming into a woman, but even at eleven years old, I knew I didn't need a monthly reminder from my uterus that I wasn't pregnant; I was fully aware, thank you very much. In retrospect, I wish I excitedly drawn red waterdrops in my calendar like my self-help books had told me to. But in reality, I took a pad from the bathroom cabinet, stuck it on my underwear, and went on with my day.

Maybe I wanted to prove that my period wasn't a big deal and that I was a big girl who could handle anything puberty threw at me. Perhaps I wanted to avoid the inevitably awkward "period talk" with my mother. Either way, I was more focused on what to wear to my first day of school than whether I'd prefer a menstrual cup to a tampon.

Over the next few years, my friends decided that periods were too embarrassing to talk about in public and adopted various nicknames so that we could "talk about them in front of boys." Aunt Flo, Niagara Falls, or on most days, "that time of the month." I had gained a bit of a reputation for being a "social

justice warrior” and argued a little too loudly to my friends, “Why can’t we just call periods, periods? What’s the use for all these code-names?” In my mind, if boys could bring condoms to school as pranks, then I was entitled to call periods by their actual names instead of using euphemisms.

My friends had no answer to my question, but it didn’t matter. Whatever the reason was, it was agreed that periods were a topic only to be discussed between girls. Whenever we snuck each other pads in hallways, we would always shove the packages up our sleeves or down our pockets – never out in the open.

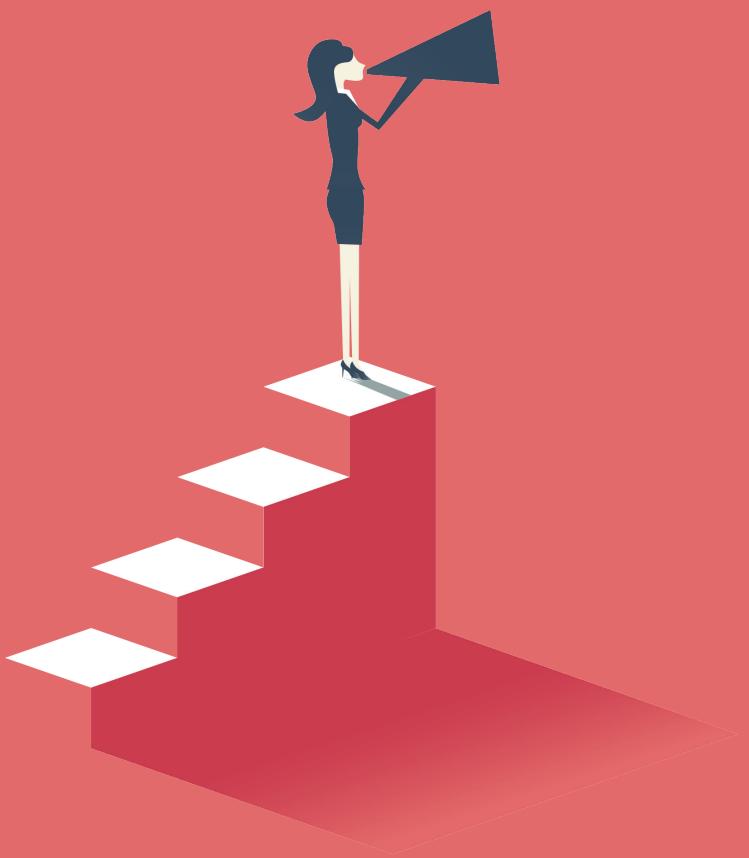
I eventually stopped correcting my friends on what terminology to use when talking about our periods. It just wasn’t a conversation worth arguing over.

But in a lot of ways, I was actually a hypocrite. When my friend invited me to join the school’s unofficial feminism club,

I hesitated. As much as I liked to post political posters on social media or try to convert misogynistic classmates into feminists, it was a lot more fun to spend my lunch hour talking about K-pop boy bands with my friends than diving into a political discussions on an empty stomach. And when I learned that I would have to chip in to buy sanitary pads to stock every high school bathroom with as part of the club’s period awareness campaign, I decided that as much as I felt strongly about destigmatizing periods, I was also heavily invested in Season 3 of *The Good Place*, and I would rather keep my Netflix subscription than use my allowance on hundreds of private school girls I knew could pay for their own sanitary products.

In my head, I think I liked the persona





Educating Bilingual Children and Sustaining Their Bilingualism

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Many children grow up bilingual, whether it is because they have parents who speak different languages or because they have experience living in other countries. Children who are bilingual have the ability to speak two languages fluently, and it is important that they retain this ability because being bilingual

comes with many benefits later on in the child's life, such as being able to learn a third language with less struggle than a monolingual adult would have trying to learn a second language, according to a study conducted at Georgetown University Medical Center, or having fast cognitive recovery from brain injuries such as strokes.

One prominent way a child can maintain this capability is to receive bilingual education. Bilingual education is when students are provided with two languages to learn with simultaneously. Most programs are taught in one language during one part of the day, then the other language the other part of the day. And although there is some debate about whether or not a bilingual education is really the best way a bilingual child can learn or not, there are many notable benefits to it.

A benefit of children receiving bilingual education is that they will be exposed to more diversity and different cultures from a young age. Because most children are not as interested in diversity and social issues at a young age, learning with a



bilingual curriculum will allow them to be more aware of the variety of people and cultures around them and help them realize that differences in people can be learned from, and are nothing to be afraid of. Another more practical benefit is that bilingual education can provide children with numerous future opportunities. Bilingual children have a wider selection of careers to choose from, as they can become translators, interpreters, or human resources specialists, as well as have potential overseas study opportunities later on in life. They can also do less significant but equally desirable things such as read untranslated books and watch original movies. Finally, bilingual education encourages wisdom in developing children. Wisdom can be defined in several different ways, but wisdom in children most commonly means making the right decisions. Having the best experiences to develop wisdom is crucial to children because wisdom deepens and expands as the children go through more struggles in their life and learn to use these lessons to their advantage and make the best decisions.

to become better people not just in terms of intelligence or knowledge capacity but humanity and personality.

Some may say that bilingual education is not affordable to every bilingual child, which is true because there is no doubt that bilingual education is expensive. However, the investment that the parents of the child and the government make will definitely be worthwhile because the bilingual child, when brought up and educated properly, will go on to promote diversity and bring new perspectives into society to strengthen it. Others may say that bilingual education may shift the child's focus from important extracurricular activities to learning a second language, but the bilingual education's goal is not to become a program where a child learns with a central language and learns another language on the side but is to equally balance the curriculum with the two languages so that the child can learn to read, write, and speak both languages effectively in the present and in the future.

Many people desire to be able to speak a second language, to be able to communicate in something other than their mother tongue. When children are gifted an opportunity to become someone with this ability, it is extremely important that



they seize the chance and then maintain their talent. Bilingual education may not be available to everyone, but where it is, it provides great assistance in allowing children to keep both languages and helping them become better people. Therefore, bilingual education is both highly effective and important to sustaining fluency in more than one language.

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Positive aspects of school uniform

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What do you think about wearing school uniforms? Do you think it is good or bad? Maybe a lot of students don't think there are lots of positive aspects of wearing school uniforms. It's because school uniforms are not that comfortable and it is harder to express their personalities. But in spite of those reasons, there are many more positive aspects of wearing school uniforms than not wearing it. The first positive aspect of wearing school uniforms can benefit students school life. If there is a school uniforms, every student wears the same clothes. This makes students to feel more sense of belonging to their school community and makes students to think more about the value of the team efforts rather than an individual. Another benefit of wearing a school uniform is that students can be more focused on their academic studies. If they don't need to spend time thinking about what they are going to wear to school everyday. Also they don't need to worry about the latest fashion trend. This helps to eliminate or reduce problems that hinder students school work, furthermore, if students wear school uniform it is easier to distinguish students from adults. So this reduce students temptation to fall into bad environment. For example, if students wear a school uniform it will be harder to buy cigarettes or alcohol beverages in the store. Most of people will not sell those to the students and they will stop students from doing bad things. Another big positive aspect of wearing a school uniform is it

doesn't make people feel discriminated against clothes or alienated from what they are wearing. Sometimes people judge other people by their clothes if they are rich or poor. Not everyone does that, but there are some people

discriminates other people by just their looks instead of truly know them inside. In fact, students who live in a wealthy family, they often wear a brand new clothes which can be expensive. Such as famous brand winter jackets and shoes. But on the other side, there are students who can't afford to buy those expensive brand clothes. So they usually wear something not so expensive. There is nothing wrong with wearing expensive clothes. If you and your family can afford those that could be your choice. But it will be nice to consider other people's feeling who can't afford expensive clothes. For this reason we should not judge people by their attire before even we know them well. We don't want to accept this reality, but this is truly happening in our society. Also there are always a fashion trend among students, and every time new trend comes many students want to buy those clothes. But the problem is these fashion trend clothes are usually expensive for students to buy. Because of these reasons, some people

can't buy those just

because they can't

afford to spend

money even

if they want.

When they go

to school they

will meet friends

who are wearing





expensive fashionable clothes and that's when they feel left out from others. These are only a few of the reasons but it is clear that wearing school uniforms has many positive aspects to students. Being a student is one of the most important and the happiest time in life. We don't want to make students feel discriminated or alienated of the clothes and not fall into a bad environment and can be more focus to school work. So they can have a better life in the future. For these reasons, even though there are some negative side of school uniforms, but students should think more about the positive side of wearing school uniforms to have a better school life as a student.

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3

Education





Who was Louis Braille?

Sean Koo

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All over the world right now, people could understand what is going on in the world even though they are blind. How? The answer is Braille. Braille a form of written language for blind people, in which characters are represented by patterns of raised dots that are felt with the fingertips. His invention became a great part of society and considered one of the greatest achievements in the world.

Louis Braille was born on January 4th, 1809 in Coupvray, France. Braille lived his father and mother, Simon-René and Monique, At the age of three, while playing in his father's shop, he accidentally poked himself in the eye with a sharp object. Despite the family's best effort, Braille became blind. However, he successfully attended the National Institute for Blind Youth in Paris at the age of 10 in 1819.

The National Institute for Blind Youth student used a system called the Hauy system. The Hauy system was a system made by Valentin Hauy. He made a small library of books for the children using the technique of embossing heavy paper with the raised imprints of Latin letters. The children would put their fingers over the paper and trace it with their fingers. However, the system was slow and tricky. Braille was interested in this system and graduated school in 1833 after being a teacher's aide.

Braille got the idea for his system by 1821 by Captain Charles Barbier of the French army. His system was called the “night writing” which was done by carving dots and slashes on a thick paper and they would trace it with their fingers that had meaning for each dot or slash. Braille worked tirelessly on his ideas, and his system was largely completed by 1824 when he was fifteen years old. From Barbier’s night writing, he innovated by simplifying its form and maximizing its efficiency. He made uniform columns for each letter that had six dots each. He published his system in 1829. In 1837, he discarded the dashes because they were too difficult to read.

Braille lived the rest of his life spreading and editing his ideas, and eventually even became a teacher. However, there was a problem: he was thought to have tuberculosis and died at the age of 43 in 1852. His legacy lives on with us, as blind people around the world can understand things with this method.

Sean Koo

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The Use of Technology in Schools

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Technology is a gift, a privilege. Without inventions like the computer, humanity as a species would be nowhere near advanced as it is now. Yet, despite the many and great benefits technology gives us, many parents including CEOs like Bill Gates are against the notion of teaching kids with technology; why is that?

To understand why the new wave of teaching children in schools with limited use of technology, also known as Waldorf education or Steiner education is so popular, we first have to understand how this teaching method supposedly benefits students. The entire basis of Waldorf education is to develop the intellectual, artistic, and practical skills of a student in a way that is more connected with the community and the nature around them, and especially focusing on developing the creative aspect of children. Because of this style of education's focus on connecting with people around them and the

community, many Waldorf schools also strictly regulate the use of technology in and outside of school for students.

This is where a lot of controversy around Waldorf education begins; in a world where technology is so important, where technology is a part of the majority of the population's day to day life, Waldorf education restricts the technology use of students. This comes with major backlash from the public, with two main points, the first one being that students need to have hands-on experience and know how to use technology in a society where it is so important, and the second point being that technology can be useful in teaching students as technology can help students better understand the learning material. Despite such backlash, however, Waldorf schools are still popular, with over 1,000 institutions in over 91 different countries. Even huge tech companies' CEOs send their children to Waldorf institutions, like the Waldorf School of the Peninsula in Silicon Valley, despite the fact that the K-12 technology industry is a huge one that they could be benefiting off of. Names like Bill Gates and Steve Jobs support Waldorf education, and around 75% of parents sending their children to Waldorf schools have huge ties to tech companies. All of this should prove that Waldorf education is insanely popular, and actually has benefits.

So, despite the backlash it gets from the general public, Waldorf education still seems promising in providing the best possible education to students, even in the eyes of top tech CEOs which this type of education would supposedly harm. All in all, the Waldorf education system is a promising one that provides great potential for great citizens of society, and may change the way we look at education forever.

Jason Lee

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A photograph of a classroom interior. Rows of wooden desks and chairs are arranged facing forward. The desks are light-colored wood with dark metal legs. The chairs have dark wooden slatted backs and matching seats. The room has large windows along the back wall, letting in bright sunlight. The overall atmosphere is quiet and academic.

4

Education and Society

Right to Education Movement

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The world in its current status is developing because of people who are educated. It makes sense that those who are educated are the ones who are more likely to be successful, because it fills the mind with knowledge in all sorts of subjects. Our world represents the power of knowledge, and why it is so important for people. Unfortunately, there is a huge difference in the socioeconomic status of each country, meaning that some countries receive insufficient amounts of education. Especially with children, it is important that they are provided education in order for the future generations to be healthier. In India, there were some areas that are suffering from poverty in 2009. On August 4th 2009, there was a movement

called the "Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education Act," formed by the Indian parliament. This movement carried on to be a critical action for the world, as the message of the importance of education was sent.

An important part of the movement was the 86th Amendment of the Indian Constitution. It is the idea that was supported by the advocates who knew the importance of education in their society. Created in the year 2002, the 86th Amendment of the Indian Constitution says, "21A. The State shall provide free and compulsory education to all children of the age of six to fourteen years in such manner as the State may, by law, determine."

This supports the idea of having rights to education for children, which is free for children between the age of six to fourteen. The effect of the 86 amendment was that from 2009, there was a drastic change of their socioeconomic status, as it started to seem like a well developed country. Now, it is considered quite wealthy, thanks to the great educational system that is provided.

On behalf of the 86th amendment,

the “Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education Act” was passed successfully. The movement was carried on by a mix of several opinions from experts, teachers, parents, and children. Another factor of the movement that should be considered is the quality of the service at school. According to the official Right To Education website, “School-going increased after the passage of Right To Education. In addition, we find that larger increases in enrollment are coming from older





children (ages 13–16) and from places that had lower enrollment in 2008 (the year prior to Right To Education).” This data proves that it caused lots of new students to start getting knowledge and education. The website also included data that the schools’ infrastructures improved drastically. The amount of students who had to repeat a grade deceased, as there were more experienced teachers, better textbooks, and cleaner learning environment.

When the Indian parliament passed this law and the movement was carried out, a worldwide message was sent. The pronounced message is that there should be education provided to everyone, and that it will help the world in its socioeconomic status. In fact, the message that was noticed, influenced other countries to look deeper into their own education law. Talking about influence, India wasn’t the first country

to think of the idea. Other countries such as Afghanistan, China, and Switzerland have already been following this law. However, India was the country to spread it, because they were, at the time, suffering from a big wave of poverty. Thanks to the movement, not only do the children feel more knowledgeable, but it sends a crucial message to other countries, which will cause them to look deeper into their education law.

The “Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education Act,” formed by the Indian parliament, was a movement carried on to be a critical influence and message throughout the world. As many countries have realized the importance of education, and how it can affect the socioeconomic status of a country. Take India as an example, they were able to escape from a wave of poverty through the movement, as it provided free education for children.

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Society - Four-Day School Weeks

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Over the past few years, the idea of having a four-day school week has been gaining popularity. A four-day school week would extend from Monday through Thursday with Friday becoming part of a three-day weekend. Those institutions that have implemented this new system are already proving what advantages and disadvantages the schedule can bring to students, teachers, and even parents.

There are many advantages that can come with the implementation of a four-day school week. Financial benefits are one, and it is not an understatement to say that these financial benefits are one of the main driving forces of the transition. As schools are closed for an extra day, in theory, the cost of transportation, utilities, and food provided by schools decrease by 20%. Research shows that schools with four-day weeks in the United States have saved an average of 0.4% to 2.5% of the total cost of running the school.

Another benefit comes in the form of an extra day of rest for students and teachers. Students are able to spend more time with their families, and teachers have more time to prepare for lessons,



increasing the overall quality of education. In addition, the extra day of rest lends to a less stressful environment, which ultimately makes people more willing to attend and happier while at school. Finally, the four-day school week makes it easier for parents and children to schedule appointments and other activities while avoiding conflicts. This theoretically leads to improved attendance (and this fact has been proven at several early-adopting schools in the US).

When it comes to academics, students feel less pressure thanks to the additional amount of time to study at their own pace at home. The extra day gives students



plenty of time to do their homework and be more productive. And for some older students with additional responsibilities, it provides them with more time to take on additional tasks such as a part-time job.

However, while there are many advantages that can be seen after the implementation of a four-day school week, the disadvantages should not be ignored. Since the legal requirements of total education time does not change, students have no choice but to accept shorter holiday breaks while also spending more time at school. This situation could be particularly difficult for younger students. In addition, the extra day off also poses a challenge for working parents that cannot find appropriate childcare.

Although the shift to a four-day school week may offer many challenges, keeping in mind all the potential advantages, there is definitely an argument to be made for its broader implementation in the future. More research and trial data are necessary to make any final determination, but the initial positives seem to warrant further consideration.

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How Admission Processes Taint School Education

Thomas Yonghee Song
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Since the first appearance of developed civilizations, wealth has been a symbol of power in any structured society. Advanced civilizations have economies that are based on exchange of wealth and goods; a larger amount of wealth is representative of the capability to possess greater amounts and quality of goods and thus, more power in a group of people. Therefore, the wealthy have consistently been labeled as the elite class, starting from kings and dukes of ancient times to the millionaires and billionaires of current times. Consistently, it is the wealthy class that seems to wield an oppressive form of power over the poor.

In earlier times, this oppression was quite explicit and blatant because it preceded the progressive development of the ideals pertinent to equality, freedom, and democracy. Kings and the upper class ruled over the middle class and poor, using





them as servants and mistreating them by collecting excessive taxes, using them as scapegoats, and inflicting physical pain, often for entertainment. If a person was superior in terms of the riches he or she possessed, he was to be treated as a superior, demonstrated through obeisance and subordinance.

However, over history, this explicit distinction between classes began to diminish through revolutions carried out by the oppressed lower class. As a result, the gap between the classes in society began to show up in implicit ways other than the immediate contrast in lifestyles and possessions. In modern society, this gap can be traced back to the popular adoption of meritocracy, which was ironically developed to combat the inequality and oppression between the rich and poor class.

Recently, a lot of focus has been placed on the stark gap between the two classes. The rich and poor gap is a major problem in developed countries such as the US or South Korea. Studies show that this gap in America has drastically increased over the past 40 years: while only 12 percent of the population lived in especially rich or poor areas in 1980, the number has grown to above 30 percent. In addition, the CEO to a typical worker pay ratio has

exploded from 20 to 271 over the last five decades, and the top 1 percent averages 26.3 more than the bottom 99 percent in terms of salary.

In an attempt to reverse the ongoing trend, colleges and workplaces began to develop the idea of meritocracy. Meritocracy is a system that promotes performance over wealth and class, accepting students and candidates based on pure ability instead of family background and income. In a society where the poor families produced children bound to work poor jobs and the rich children inherited businesses and money from their families, meritocracy seemed like the solution to economic oppression. In theory, regardless of family class, the wealthy and the poor would have equal opportunities and chances of success when applying to colleges and jobs. The only factor that could influence this process is the amount of effort that an individual invested in becoming more capable in society.

However, it was not long before the upper class began to, and continues to, exploit this system. Initially, meritocracy produced its intended results: a larger portion of students from poorer backgrounds were able to prosper and upgrade their caste



through this system. However, the idea of the “hereditary elite” still persists, and recent studies show that Harvard, Princeton, Stanford, and Yale accept more students from families that belong to the top 1 percent than households of the bottom 60 percent. Furthermore, if the scope is shortened to pure performance, it is apparent that children whose parents make over \$200,000 as

salary score 250 points

higher

on average

compared to children

whose parents make between

\$40,000 and \$60,000.

One critical factor in this imbalance is the fact that students with richer families are more appealing and favorable to colleges. Colleges accept

donations from such families, not to mention the weight that is placed on



students with legacy members in the family. It is most likely that poorer households will be incapable of donating large sums of money to colleges, neither is it likely that they have legacy members embedded in the family tree. Therefore, a cyclic process is created: rich families are able to send children to elite colleges with greater chances, who in turn, also have greater chances of sending their own children to the same elite college.

In addition, a more implicit but equally impactful factor is that wealthier families are able to afford better quality education. Starting from pre-school, they are able to send their children to top-tier schools, in addition to cram schools and tutors that they can supplement to the learning process. As a result, these children are better suited for the competition when applying to colleges. They have better test scores, more extracurricular achievements, and better essays to submit. Thus, the children from wealthy families are better adapted to the system of meritocracy because of the higher quality of education that they are able to afford.

As evident, economic oppression is persistent in modern society. Even as efforts are made to eliminate the societal gap between the classes through methods such as meritocracy, the middle and poor class fail to escape the cycle of generations. Whether it be simple goods or education, the wealthy class is better suited to the structure of society, and they continue to prosper and contribute to the growing rich and poor gap. Perhaps it is an inherent characteristic of human civilizations to create and maintain this gap and oppression, through explicit and implicit ways.

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Practicality of Education



Mental Illness and Education

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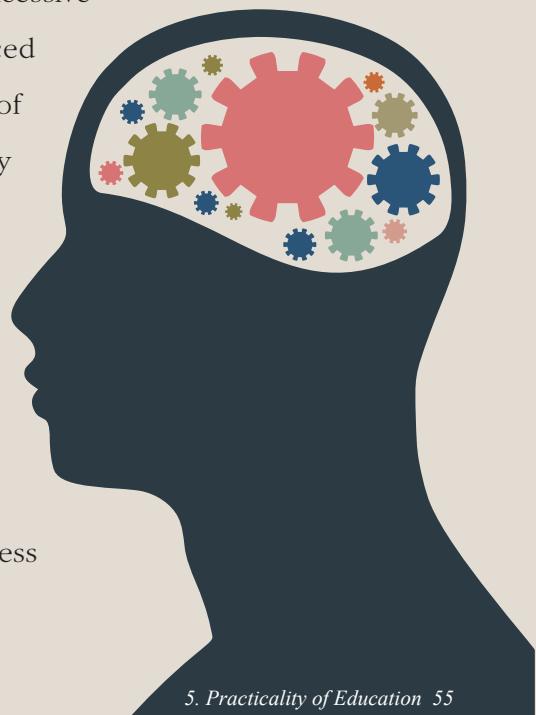
Mental illness is what we commonly identify as the term to diagnose those with malfunctioning or irregular brain systems. It comes in many different forms, from depression and anxiety to bipolar disorder and neurosis. In the world today, more than millions of people with varying ages, lifestyles, social status, and race have been recognized to bear one or more mental illness. Furthermore, the effects that mental illness has on its victims vary drastically. It is important to acknowledge how threatening the term 'Mental illness' can be on a person and his or her entire life. Mental illness is not a topic to be deemed with common idleness or immaturity; nearly everyday, people die or even make the arduous choice of taking their own lives.

So what causes mental illnesses? There are numerous causes that factor into a person's likelihood of developing a mental disorder. While genetically inherited disorders are noticeably prevailing, there are also completely distinct components which contribute to exacerbating a person's mental health. Generally, such causes can be divided into three separate categories: adolescence, adulthood, and advancing years. In adolescence, or pre-adulthood, children experience puberty when they undergo great changes in both their physical body parts as well as their psychology. During puberty, it is easy for adolescents to crumble under stress and changes. Especially in the recent years, suicide rates among teenagers have skyrocketed. Unable to endure educational stress, peer pressure, or relationships with parents, many young

teenagers diagnose themselves with depression and anxiety, then later choose to take their own lives. Similarly, people in their adulthood suffer from several mental disorders. Most commonly, this is caused by the incredible stress regarding work or family. Many adults struggle to find both well-paying and appropriate jobs to support their families. Moreover, when people advance into their elderly years, they are more exposed to disorders such as Dementia and Alzheimer's which are mental illnesses typically accompanied with old age and weakening body systems. Generally, there are millions of elements that cause mental disorders.

The effects that education has on students and their mental capacity is significant. First of all, the 'hierarchy' within the education system around the world set strict limits and boundaries on students who suffer from mental illnesses. Or education itself can also be the main cause of developing a mental illness in a student.

Unlike physical illnesses which are visibly perceivable, symptoms supplemented with mental illnesses are often difficult to comprehend. A broken bone will lead to a cast that the patient must keep on for a few weeks, and a cut or burn will require bandages or even stitches. On the other hand, general symptoms of mental illnesses typically consist of extreme mood changes, excessive feelings of guilt, significant fatigue, or reduced ability to concentrate. Compared to those of physical injuries, the symptoms that are typically accompanied with mental illnesses are much more difficult to comprehend and can be very ambiguous. Because of this, people affected by mental illnesses are capable of making the choice to conceal their illness and feign perfect health. This just makes the term 'Mental illness' all the more bleak and dismal. Many mental illness



patients fail to receive the proper treatment they need, and lose the chance to live a normal life. Unless one is well informed with the symptoms of a certain mental disorder, it is extremely difficult for an inexperienced person to distinguish someone with a mental illness.

While the term ‘Mental illness’ is meaningless or even amusing to some, it is actually associated with extremely dark topics including death. People who are medically diagnosed with a mental illness must endure hardships that others cannot even conceptualize. With social media platforms such as Instagram, Snapchat, Facebook, and Tik Tok(social media platform for creating and sharing short videos) rising, digital users are commonly making humorous jokes about mental illnesses. This shows that awareness of mental illnesses have not yet been fully dispersed. Mental illness is a term to generalize severe illnesses that invade people’s brains and manipulate their entire lives, sometimes leading them to a path that ends in a deadly pitfall called death.

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Should University Tuition Fees Be Free?

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University education is more than the next level in the learning process after graduating from high school; it's a crucial component of human development in terms of higher education and useful life skills. Not only is university education important for individuals, but it has a significant impact on social capital, unity, and prosperity.



The right of access to higher education is mentioned in several international conventions including the ICESCR, which declares that "higher education shall be made equally accessible to all, on the basis of capacity, by every appropriate means, and in particular by the progressive introduction of free education". Considering the value of post-secondary education, to what extent should students have to pay for the overwhelmingly expensive tuition?

Offering free post-secondary tuition would make it possible for more people to pursue higher education. The high costs of degrees would no longer be a burden to students which they often had to weigh for several years even after graduation through student loan debt. Moreover, there will be an increase in the number of college-degree holders. Higher rates in getting a college degree often directly result in getting better jobs, creating a positive ripple effect while contributing to the multiplier effect, boosting the economy. Not only would it uplift the country's GDP as more are able to work for higher-paying jobs, social benefits of having a more educated populace, for example, an increase in liveability as well as higher prosperity, are included.

Many argue that tertiary education should be free to ensure equality of opportunity. Even despite the possibility of taking out student loans or working part-time to pay for tuition, this may dissuade students and instead, encourage them to join the workforce earlier. However, according to research conducted by Sarah Cohodes and Joshua Goodman, free tuition does not necessarily keep high-achieving, low-income students from dropping out if they attend a low-quality school which is often the case. By 2020, Georgetown University has predicted that 65% of all jobs will require more than just a high school degree, and free tuition fees can be a way to restore income inequality. However, in an



age of continuous growth in economic inequality, improving the quality of education is one of the most ideal ways to alleviate income disparities. However, with free university tuition, ensuring high-quality education in a sustainable method becomes more difficult.

More than 44 million borrowers who collectively owe to an accumulated \$1.5 trillion in the U.S., student loan debt is now the second-highest consumer debt category, even higher than credit card loans. Political influences from candidates like Elizabeth Warren and Bernie Sanders who are proposing drastic action of abolishing student

debt and offering free tuition may be appealing to a large portion of people due to the severity and frequency of the student loan debt. For many, student debt can be crippling, but for others, it's a smart investment for the future. A better policy would target those who need debt relief and utilize income-based debt payments. Australia's Higher Education Loan Program (HELP) is a great example where the program requires no repayments during the course of study but only once the student starts earning a certain annual income. Using tax money to target the most vulnerable and





adjusting the incentives based on the students they have would also be a favourable method to implement.

Offering “free money” to young adults with very little or no experience with finance managing can result in economically irrational behaviours. Despite the benefits of expanding access to higher education, enabling equality in opportunities, as well as stopping student loan debt, the reality is that free tuition is putting the burden on the taxpayers instead of the individuals and it would be more difficult to continue to improve the standard and quality of education within universities and colleges.

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Citation

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Effective Teaching Methods

Nancy Koo

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In many countries, it is mandatory to go through a thorough course of education. It is important to receive in-depth education as it helps people acquire the necessary skills and knowledge they require later on in life. Education is considered one of the most important aspects of childhood; however, there is a wide variety of methods that people get educated and there is different views regarding the best system of education. Formative assessment is perhaps the lightest lift of this list for a teacher to begin incorporating into their practice. Formative assessment differs fundamentally from traditional summative assessment in that it is designed to provide the information

necessary to make minor “course corrections” along the way, rather than judge whether or not a student “reached their goal” at the end of a unit. It can be significantly less stressful, both for teachers and students, than summative assessment, and it is an important part of personalized learning and competency-based learning. Maker



education exists at the intersection of STEM, creative projects and a “get **** done” attitude, and it’s all about giving your students a chance to engage their creative sides while having something cool to show for it. Many teachers find they really enjoy incorporating some “making” time into their weekly schedules, and there are limitless unique options to applying Maker Ed to the are many benefits to education an organized educational model and up to date course contents and a structured and systematic learning process. Another benefit is that students acquire knowledge from trained and professional teachers. Also, one of the most predominant benefits is intermediate and final assessments are ensured to advance students to the next learning phase. And finally, a high level of education leads to an easier access to jobs.



various subject areas. There as a whole. One of the benefits is

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