访谈记录 英锐辩论教练 Peter

**Discussion related to ZhongKao:**

Complicated in the first place

**Discussion related American’s system of selecting students:**

Many didn’t go to master. Many students go to university because of culture but not for their need may be not at for their need. Small town’s youths have no necessity to go to university rather than should have gone to vocational schools, but in debt and student loans, and eventually left to a miserable life. The US as plummer still able to make enough money to make a good life. It’s the essence of problem that not enough salary for blue collar workers. Not just Zhongkao, jobs can people able to find matter the most. Blue collars can start to make more money e.g. 外卖, but it will take a lot of time for that.

Tracking, how to make the balance between academically strong and weak students, streaming can partially solve the problem, but the separation can lead to further problem of inequality, 6th years’ old will determine their life, if not behaving well may be harder to promote to another level, ok for the short term but worse in the long term. Lower level from poorer and racial minority groups, other factors (e.g. divorced) may temporally behave worse but put in the lower class. Tracking used to be prevalent, but currently still exists and top levels are mainly rich students controlled by the ones with power and wealth. It’s multiple aspects for not only academic but also behaviour. A snow ball effect.

**Opinions on extending critical thinking course to other schools in China:**

Not sure about what is the best system could be, but it’s definitely beneficial. But need more money to get in. In the US it’s free and a normal part of school. Even in Kansas education available for everyone is important. Hope government can extend funding for this kind of extended courses, doesn’t have to be in English, having high importance. More obvious computer-originated or science isn’t that important for this era, while critical thinking can move further, to swift in the sea of fake news.

Currently still very few specialised even in Shanghai, approximately 50 or so, definitely not proportionate to many students. But many students who were debaters come back to teach debate and spread critical thinking and related values. Better understanding of surrounding world but not stuck in echo chamber. Think more deeply and question more and seek for the truth.

NSDA is trying to develop curriculum to help with student workbook and teacher workbook and find teacher to intro to debate. Framing a system will largely expand the access of debate to students.

**How to develop the interest of subject**

Existed and people can choose to do it. ECA programs and club system’s existence will takes the first steps, no currently need to advertise and people’s curiosity will start it all. The basic infrastructure is of the greatest importance.

**Stories about students taught and how debate is able to help them:**

First or second year teaching. Award event (pizza night) teachers picking students (e.g. most progressive) one student not strong but curious about learning, though in debate too nervous and awkward, recognition in the process will help to build the confidence and go through the whole process better. Important to develop how to deal with people better.

**\*Opinions on the current Chinese education system:**

Disparity exists even in Shanghai schools, the values and goals are the most important, every person is equal and deserves to work hard and have a better life. If only based on hard work and determination, inequality can exist, but currently not just based on individual’s ability. The possibility of success is largely depend on areas one is born. Goal, is to lower-tier city and countryside still access to higher education, administration and teaching materials to be donated. How to attract high-quality resources for less attractive students. More redistribution will be the key.

Be connected with people in country is important.

2004 John Kerry: after you graduate high school, give one year of your life to countryside, doing military or volunteering service to help people who are vulnerable, then he/she’s given free access to university.

Not enough sight to the people in need and problem of unfair distribution remains while no route about aiding exists.

Blue collars are of very high necessities and covid’s lockdown partially shows this fact. Changing attitudes to these workers will help somehow.