



University Quotas for Disadvantaged Students would Be Extraordinarily Patronising

大学定额录取劣势学生将是极其傲慢的

Date: Jan. 18, 2023

422 Words

The proposal by Richard Cairns that the Government should impose on universities a fixed admissions **quota** of between 20 per cent and 25 per cent for **disadvantaged** students is undoubtedly **well-meaning**, but it is both **extraordinarily patronising** and deeply flawed. It makes a **mockery** of the hard work many disadvantaged students put into getting into the best universities in the first place. It carries the clear **implication** that low-income students can't possibly hope to compete through talent and intelligence, so we have to lower the bar for them.

理查德·凯恩斯（英国私立学校布莱顿学院的校长）提议，英国政府应该给大学规定一个固定的录取配额，为弱势学生提供 20%至 25%的录取名额。这一提议无疑是出于好意的，但它既极其傲慢，同时又存在严重缺陷。它嘲弄了许多弱势学生当初为了进入最好的大学而付出的努力。它的言下之意是，低收入家庭的学生不可能靠天赋和智力来竞争，所以我们必须给他们降低标准。

The quota proposal attacks disadvantage from totally the wrong end. It accepts that the disadvantaged 18 year-old will arrive at the point of entry to university unable to show the same level of achievement as others, and in so doing accepts that we can do nothing in the 13 years of full-time state education the student has received to **remedy** the situation. It's like providing an **aspirin** for a headache whilst failing to treat its cause.

录取配额制的提议从完全错误的角度伤害了弱势学生。它承认，处于弱势的 18 岁青少年在进入大学时无法取得与其他人水平相当的成就，而

quota ['kwootə] *n.* 定额，配额；

定量，指标 | The government has decided to scrap quotas on car imports. 政府决定取消汽车进口配额。

disadvantaged [ˌdɪsədˈvæntɪdʒd] *adj.* 弱势的，社会地位低下的

well-meaning *adj.* 本意良好的，出于好意的（但不成功） | He's very well-meaning, but he doesn't really understand what's going on. 他本意是很好，但他并不了解情况。

extraordinarily [ɪk'strɔːdnərəli] *adv.* 极其；奇怪地 | We were extraordinarily lucky. 我们极其幸运。

patronising(=patronizing) [ˈpeɪtrənaɪzɪŋ] *adj.* 自认为高人一等的，自命不凡的

mockery ['mɔːkəri] *n.* 嘲笑，愚弄 | The trial made a mockery of justice. 这次审判是对正义的嘲弄。

implication [ˌɪmplɪˈkeɪʃn] *n.* 含意，暗指；可能的影响（或结果） | The implication of your statement is that I was wrong. 你这语的弦外之音是我错了。

remedy ['remədi] *v.* 补救，纠正 *n.* 处理方法，改进措施；疗法 | To

这样做就承认，在学生接受的 13 年全日制国家教育中，我们无法采取任何措施来改善这种情况。这就像为头痛症提供阿司匹林止痛，但不能治本。

Meanwhile, it overlooks the impact on universities. In order to succeed a university needs to be free to choose the students best suited to its courses. If we wish our universities to compete as world-class we cannot let the Government decide which students it is allowed to accept. Universities have made significant **strides** in opening themselves up to disadvantaged students in recent years. Do we trust the Government to define disadvantage any more effectively than universities presently do?

同时，它忽略了对大学的影响。一所大学要想成功，就需要自由选择最适合其课程的学生。如果我们希望我们的大学成为世界一流大学，就不能让英国政府决定哪些学生可以被录取。近年来，大学在接受弱势学生方面取得了重大进展。我们要相信英国政府能比现在的大学更有效地定义弱势学生吗？

At the core of Cairns' argument is discrimination against **independent school** pupils. Basing entry on whether or not a student attends a **maintained** or an independent **school** is **clumsy beyond belief** as a means of defining disadvantage. It does not **cater for** the many young people attending independent schools who are on **bursaries**, or the parent who uses independent school for their child but dips out at the last minute to go to a **sixth form college** and so qualify as a candidate from a maintained school.

凯恩斯论点的核心是私立学校的学生受到歧视。以学生上的是公立学校还是私立学校作为界定弱势学生的手段笨拙得令人难以置信。它不适用于许多靠助学金在私立学校上学的年轻人，也不适合某些家长，他们让孩子在私立学校上学，但在最后一刻放弃去读预科学校，因此有资格作为公立学校出来的考生。

Yet the fact that the current system is not working well is not an argument for replacing it with one that is even worse. A

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remedy the situation, the water must be chemically treated. 为了改善这种情况，水必须进行化学处理。

aspirin ['æspəɪn] *n.* 阿司匹林(镇痛解热消炎药)

stride [straɪd] *n.* 进展，发展；大步 *v.* 大步走，阔步行走 | The government has made great strides in reducing poverty. 政府在减少贫困方面已经取得巨大进展。

independent school(=private school) (英国的) 私立学校

maintained school <英> (国家或公共集资办的) 公立学校

clumsy ['klʌmzi] *adj.* 笨拙的，不灵巧的；不得体的 | A clumsy waiter spilled wine all over her new skirt. 一名笨手笨脚的服务员把葡萄酒洒得她新裙子上到处都是。

beyond belief 令人难以置信 | What she did was stupid beyond belief. 她所做的事情傻得叫人难以相信。

cater for 满足需要，适合 | The school aims to cater for children of all abilities. 学校以满足各种能力的孩子的需要为目标。

bursary ['bɜːrsəri] *n.* 奖学金，助学金

sixth form college 预科学校 (英国为准备参加高级程度考试的学生开设的学校)

little more than 只不过，仅仅 | He left school with little more than a basic education. 他只受了点基本的

quota for disadvantaged students is actually **little more than** a **smokescreen** that covers the real problem, which is how to help the disadvantaged overcome the obstacles to their success. To address that we need to **revolutionise** the attitude in our schools to identifying and **bringing on** the more able student, whatever their background. Quotas merely put a coat of paint over a huge crack in our education wall.

然而，当前制度存在缺陷的这一事实并不是用一个更糟糕的制度取代它的理由。针对弱势学生的录取配额制实际上只是一个幌子，它掩盖了真正的问题，即如何帮助弱势学生战胜成功道路上的障碍。为了解决这个问题，我们需要彻底改变学校的态度，让它们能识别和培养更有能力的学生，无论他们的背景如何。录取配额制只是给我们教育之墙上的一个巨大裂缝涂上了一层油漆。

➤ 脉络梳理

Para. 1 抨击凯恩斯提出的大学录取配额制

Para. 2-3 分析录取配额制不可取的原因：无法从根本上解决弱势学生的问题；不利于大学发展

Para. 4-5 指出当前的制度确实存在问题，但这不是采用录取配额制的理由，需要从根本上解决问题

➤ 长难句拆解

分句1 主语 后置定语，修饰 proposal

The proposal by Richard Cairns

同位语从句，解释说明 proposal

that the Government should impose on universities a fixed admissions quota of between 20 per cent and 25 per cent for disadvantaged students

分句1 系动词+表语

分句2

is undoubtedly well-meaning, but it is both extraordinarily patronising and deeply flawed.

• 同位语从句中谓语部分的结构为 impose ... on ...，此处 impose 的宾语 a fixed admissions quota ... 过长，因此后置，正常语序为 impose a fixed admissions quota ... on universities

教育就辍学了。

smokescreen ['smoʊkskri:n] n.

（掩盖某人的活动或真实意图的）

烟幕，幌子

revolutionise(=revolutionize)

[ˌrevəˈluːʃənaɪz] v. 彻底改变，完全

变革 | Over the past forty years

plastics have revolutionised the way

we live. 在过去的40年中，塑料彻

底改变了我们的生活方式。

bring on 使提高，使进步；引起，

导致 | Teachers have to bring on the

bright children and at the same time

give extra help to those who need it.

教师需要培养聪明的孩子，同时给

予有需要的学生更多的帮助。