

Last week, I spoke with some of my students about their plans after graduation and what kind of job prospects they expected. As I teach students who are training to become doctors, I was surprised to hear that most of them felt they wouldn't be able to secure the jobs they wanted without "outside help." "What kind of help?" I asked, expecting them to say that they needed a relative or family friend to assist them. One of them replied, "Surgery." I was shocked by that response. It seems that today's graduates are increasingly willing to undergo surgery to gain an advantage in the job market. One girl mentioned she was considering surgery to increase her height. "They break your legs, put in special extending screws, and slowly expand the gap between the two ends of the bone as it re-grows. You can get at least 5 cm taller!"

At that point, I was taken aback. While I am short, I don't think I would go through months of pain just to be a few centimeters taller. I don't even wear shoes with thick soles because I'm not trying to hide my height!

It seems there's a growing trend of wanting "perfection," an ideal that doesn't really exist. No one is born perfect, yet magazines, TV shows, and movies often depict thin, tall, and beautiful people as the standard. Advertisements for weight loss products, beauty treatments, and cosmetic surgery fill the pages of newspapers, creating the notion that "perfection" is something you must buy at any cost. In my opinion, a person's skills, not their appearance, should determine their success in their chosen career.

YUZHOU, HENAN — A tragic accident in a coal mine in central China claimed the lives of 21 miners on Saturday, with another 16 trapped underground, according to government reports. The death toll rose to 26 on Sunday morning as rescuers worked tirelessly to reach the remaining 11 miners still trapped underground. However, rescue efforts were facing slim chances of success, as Du Bo, deputy chief of the rescue headquarters, explained that the miners could be buried under coal dust, making survival unlikely.

More than 2,500 tons of coal dust buried the pit after a gas leak, which further complicated the rescue operation, Du added. The gas outburst occurred at 6:03 a.m. on Saturday while 276 miners were working underground in the mine in Yuzhou City. Although 239 workers managed to escape, 21 were confirmed dead, and 16 remained trapped.

An initial investigation revealed that 173,500 cubic meters of gas leaked during the accident. Liu Wenbin, the deputy chief engineer of the company that owns the mine, was in the pit at the time of the incident. He organized the escape after sensing something was wrong with the airflow. "Around 6 a.m., I felt that something was off with the airflow in the shaft, and one of the team captains told me he had also noticed it and had already reported the issue," Liu said.

The mine is owned by Pingyu Coal & Electric Co. Ltd., a company formed by four investors, including Zhong Ping Energy Chemical Group and China Power Investment Corp.