

The Hidden Influences of Education

Education is very essential for human beings to live their lives smartly and make them more full and enjoyable. In fact, most of people receive education from elementary school to university or college. Receiving education come to be regarded as a common thing compared with the last generation as our parents lived, since in recent high competitive society, education is a very necessary factor for people to survive in it by getting academic success. Consequently, whenever people think about education, they can only figure out positive aspects. For example, education gives people knowledge and experience; also, it leads to the opportunity to get high social status. The more people receive education, the more opportunity to get better job and high social status they will be able to obtain. However, at the same time, education might influence them negatively. It alienate one form some precious things: relationship between family or friends and enjoyment in the life.

Richard Rodriguez in his article "The Achievement of Desire" states that the more high education he receives, the further he feels apart from his parents. He says, "He takes his first step toward academic success, away from the family" (Rodriguez, 600). I myself feel the same as he does. My parents are not much educated, but I have received better education since junior high school by taking entrance exam. At that time, I was very glad to receive high education by obtaining new knowledge and experience. However, through

getting more and more knowledge and experience, I came to notice my parents' shortage. When my parents' thought and sense were different from what I learned in school, I felt upset or a little bit disappointed with my parents, and even ashamed I naturally had "embarrassment at their lack of education" (Rodriguez, 600). Rodriguez states that "a second-grade student, I was the one who came home and corrected the 'simple' grammatical mistakes of our parents" and he seems to feel disappointed with his parents as I experienced.

Moreover, if people receive higher education than their parents, they are likely to be said "your parents must be proud of you" (Rodriguez, 597). I heard it from my teachers, friends, and neighbors many times. When I heard the compliments that I was more educated and wiser than my parents, I felt that it meant there was more and more distance between me and my parents. When I was pleased at their compliments, since it praised my effort and great result, I felt sad that I become more and more apart from my parents.

Furthermore, as Rodriguez mentions "advancing in his studies, the boy notices that his mother and father have not changed as much as he", he finds a separation between him and his parents through his change by more education (Rodriguez, 600). In fact, I am studying abroad now and getting more high-level education in America, I think schooling is "changing me and separating me from the life I enjoyed before" (Rodriguez, 598). Education in America gives amazing experience and knowledge. Also, they change my perspectives and ways to think and feel. On the other hand, my parents do not

have any change at all. The difference between us sets me apart from them much more than the real distance between two countries. Since my new perspectives, experience, and ways to think and feel totally come to different from my parents. As a result, I feel alienated from my parents and “the life I enjoyed before” (Rodriguez, 598). Therefore, education leads to “the loss” in the relationship between the parents and children who have high education or academic success (Rodriguez, 599).

Education also deprives people of relationship between them and their friends. Education brings the different perspectives to them, and they are likely to feel apart from their friends. People may have friends who have not received the same education with them, and then, the friendship changes in the same way with the relationship with family. I also experienced once in elementary school. I was the only one who planned to take the entrance exam and enter the private high school. Because I went to cram school to prepare for it, I learned more knowledge compared with other classmates. Both my homeroom teacher and my classmates treated me as a best student. My homeroom teacher said to me “your parents must be proud of you”, and my friends among classmates said “we envy you because you are smarter than us” (Rodriguez 597). I was very glad to hear these comments as I thought I was recognized and regarded very well. However, at the same time, I hated them because these comments shown the separation from me and my friends. At that time, some special treatment to me also made me feel apart from my classmates

and my friends. Meanwhile, I became very sensitive to what they said and did. Sometimes I even felt what they played with was silly or childish, while I myself pretended to be more mature than them, just because I learned more than them. In this way, education can be negative influence concerning the relationship among people and friends, colleagues.

Finally, education has a negative aspect about how people enjoy their lives. Generally, education brings people some knowledge and experience about how they enjoy their lives and spend their time efficiently. This seems to be very nice, so education seems to make people's lives more enjoyable. Nonetheless, education has a negative influence. For example, Japan is a society that tends to overstress academic background, so I was told that studying is the most important thing in one's life. My high school system also stressed it since it was really a high-level high school in Japan. As a result, I was so absorbed in studying and pursuing more education to attain the academic success in the future, including entering a high-level university and getting a wonderful job. I lost enjoyment during the age of adolescence. Generally, the adolescence period is called the blossoming season of the life. Many people think most high school girls are liable to be absorbed in romance or love, friendship, fashion, make up, etc. However, I was not a typical adolescence girl, since I thought what those adolescence girls were doing was unnecessary and ridiculous. Moreover, I believed that I could live without them. However, after entering the university, I really regretted that I didn't enjoy the

adolescence period like everyone else when I heard some enjoyable memories and stories of my friends in their high school days. Also I regretfully noticed that I was lack of experiences which I could never get from education. I don't think I did a wrong thing by pursuing education, since studying is, though not enjoyable, really necessary for me to step forward. However, losing the precious time in my adolescence period was also a big loss. My adolescence period was over by only studying and pursuing more education in the rigid system of my high school. "Study hard to attain the academic success and to get better job in the future", but adolescence is the best part of people's life and some experience and knowledge, such as romance, love and friendship, cannot be established by education and will never be made up in the future. In this way, education or school system is likely to deprive us of enjoyable memories left in the events and opportunities to enjoy a fuller life in the precious time.

In conclusion, recently people come to take education for granted. Recent society becomes more and more competitive, so better and more education becomes the key to better jobs and higher social status. Education is essential to people to survive in the society. Also, it brings some opportunity to shine among other people. Consequently, education seems to have only positive aspects. However, as Rodriguez argues in his article, education has hidden negative influences. It alienates us from some precious things: relationship with people's family, their friends, and colleagues. Also, education from school

system takes away some enjoyment and experiences which people cannot get from education. Therefore, people and education system should notice the hidden negative influence of education and balance between education and these precious things which are both necessary for their lives.

Work Cited

Rodriguez, Richard. "The Achievement of Desire". Open Question: Reading for Critical Thinking and Writing. Ed. by Chris Anderson and Lex Runciman. Boston and New York: Bedford and St. Martin's, 2005.