Taiwanese Education

投稿類別：英文寫作

篇名：Taiwanese Education

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I. Introduction:

We think that Taiwanese Education is better than before, but it can be better. The government will let the students study for tests and stay at school for too much time. If we change Taiwanese Education will be more perfect.

II. Thesis

The Nurture Assumption says that, "Taiwanese Education helps children because our national grades are better than others countries, and our math is better than others countries" (Judith R. Harris, 2000). Because we do many exercises every day, but we think that our education has some problems:
1. Do students study times long?
2. Do students study just for test?
3. Do the teachers force us to memorize many things without understanding?
4. How can it change?
Answering these questions can help us find out how Taiwanese students study, is it good or bad?

1. Do students study times too long?

There is a book which The keys after school states that, "the keys after school and the cram school are not the best place to go after school" (黃能德, 2009).

Taiwanese education is not bad, but there are some defects. Taiwan’s elementary school students have appropriate times. When students are in lower grades, they only spend 28 hours at school every week. And when elementary school students are in middle-grades, they spend 34 hours at school every week. When elementary school students are in high grades, they spend 42 hours at school every week. After students go to school, they still have some free time to do something they want to do. I think having free time after school is great. For example, I can go shopping, drawing, watching TV or movie, going on the Internet and taking the trip. If we do something we like, we would work hard at our grades. If students
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relax, they will have more energy for studying. Listening, speaking, reading and writing are the major parts of communication. Taiwanese education only cares about listening, reading and writing but ignore how we speak. Speaking outside the classroom is important, too. Because communicating to others helps us learn more things and understand others better. Therefore, we need to practice speaking to each other and accept the views of others.

One of Taiwanese education defects is that senior high school students spend too much time at school. We spend 50 hours at school every week. Some schools’ students spend 62 hours at school every week. Although we can learn many things and work hard at school, it also makes us feel very tired. Feeling bad is not good for studying, we need more time to relax and communicate.

2. Do students study just for test?

What is reading for? Is it really just for the test? If there is a day that we do not have any quiz, do we still have to study just for the test? Every one has their own hobby, I think studying is a hobby too. Now in our society, studying is a thing that we are forced by teachers or parents to do. Because if I do not study, I will not pass exams. I think the most important thing to study is our attitude, if we have good attitude we can put more heart in it and we will not only study just for test.

Reading is for our future. We can find the work and earn money to live in the world. Sometimes students spend a lot of time preparing for tests or exams. But have we really learned anything? Have we learned everything we study at school? I think the things we forget are greater than we remember. We always study because of the test and study to get good grades. Some students will cheat on the tests to get a good grade. Therefore we will forget it after the test. In fact, we do not realize the meaning. The conclusion is that almost all Taiwanese people just focus on results but they do not care about the process. The process is important than the result.

3. Does the teacher force us to memorize many things?
In Taiwan, students need to memorize many things every day. For example Math, History, Geography, Chinese and especially English. English is the second most used language in Taiwan. It is very important. This is why we need to memorize many words for exams. When we memorize words, we can get higher scores. However we sometimes do not really understand what the words mean one month later. We forgot all of what we have memorized. I think that we should not memorize things just for tests. We should understand what we have studied. We could use some tools to help us. For example, we can make sentences to remember the words. Take my personal experience, when I was young, my English was poor and I could not make any correct sentences. Then I listen to English songs and read English newspapers every day, if I have any words I can not understand I will look up the dictionary and write it in my notebook. When I have time I read it, until I remembered. Sometimes I learn words from my life. For example, if I go to a department store I learned many new words. If I go to the airport I can discover the words customs, aircraft commander and many different words. Experiencing English outside the classroom is better than reading books for many hours. Teachers can not only let us memorize words but also can encourage us to read more extracurricular books to better our knowledge.

We have many tests every day and we need to memorizing many words. Sometimes we just study for test, and just memorize the answer of the question, after the test we forgot what we have studied. We always use our short term memory. If I went to the America, I will feel more comfortable, and maybe my health will be more healthy by exercising every day. My English will be better, too. Because I will talk to many foreigners every day and by talking to them I will improve my English and my international point of view and also I can learn more cultures from other countries.

III. Conclusion:

How can it change?

After reading those three problems, we think that our education could change. The Republic of China Education Report says, "Outlining a path
that will guide Taiwanese Educational reform into the 21st century. The two main areas of the proposed reforms were alleviating the examination pressure involved in entering schools of a higher level and promoting a more liberal education" (The story of Taiwan, 2011). I agree with this, too. We have many exams and tests every day. Students in America just need to stay at school for seven or eight hours, but we need to stay for more than twelve hours. American students go to play sports after school. Playing sports can help our health be better, because when we are playing sport, we will have more energy to read but we go to the cram schools. That is why most of our students are not healthy. I think that students health is very important because if you do not have any energy you can not read and study. When I was born I was not healthy, I was sick every day and I laid in bed all the time because I had asthma. I could not breath well, after eating medicine I felt better. I think being healthy is the most important thing in our lives, we can not do anything without being healthy. When I was in the sixth grade I had a big exam, and my mother told me that if my grade was poor I can not play with my friends after school. I worked very hard. I studied until midnight and I got sick. I could not take the exam the next day. I was very sad. At that time I wish I could be healthy forever, but that can not be true.

Along with memorizing the words in book, I think we can also do some activities outside. They can both help us relax and learn more international things in our lives. Most of the Taiwanese students always study in the books and do not have their own opinions. They just read what the books says. Sometimes our foreign teachers tell us to do homework, it is always hard because there is no example in our books. For example they will tell us to write paragraph about our earth and our planet, and we need to tell them why should we need to save our earth with five paragraph. We think it was too hard for us. Maybe we can improve our study tips not only just read the books.

Taiwanese education has already changed and it is better than before, but I think it can be better and we can learn from other countries education. For example, we can make our school time be shorter and the student to study without books, or to read more extracurricular books to open up our international and improve ourselves.
IV. References:


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