

20. Education

None are more interested in their children's education than Korean parents. They even have a saying that emphasizes their basic attitude: "no learn, no food." As a result, most Korean parents are willing to sacrifice their own enjoyment and comfort in behalf of their kids' educational opportunities. Many experts regard this passion for schooling as the basis for the strong economic development of the last few decades. Most Koreans continue to believe that a college degree is the "license" needed to enter a high society". Recent developments have highlighted this basic tendency, such as so-called "genius education." In addition to providing special education for gifted children, it also seeks to turn ordinary children into intellectual over-achievers through constant stimulation from a very early age, often through very direct parental guidance.

In other words, two or three-year-old may already know how to play several musical instruments, have advanced math and communication skills, and can able to speak one or more foreign languages. But this approach also has its disadvantage. For one thing, long-term studies seem to show that whatever advantage these forced genius or intellectual person may have over their ordinary classmates tends to disappear within a few years of entering School, and the education gap narrows considerably unless it is active and increase stimulation is continued. But this development merely underlines what may see as the program's more serious problem: children who are under heavy pressure to study against their will were able to suffer from depression and have difficulty adjusting to their age. In the long run, the concern is that they may turn into bright but maladjusted adults who can never find happiness or satisfaction.

Comprehension

1. What words or phrases point out Koreans' attitude toward education?
2. What are the two goals of "genius education"?
3. What is the disadvantage of providing special education to most



gifted children?

Your opinion

1. Do you think a college degree is a must?
2. Do you think a college degree helps your child get a better job?
3. Did you have a part-time job during your school days?
4. Would you allow your children to have a part-time job?
Would you encouraged it?
5. Who was your favorite teacher when you were in school?
6. What was/is your favorite subject in school?
7. Would you teach English to your young children now or in the future?

