

Moral Education is Crucial

As an international metropolis, Hong Kong put much emphasis on the essence of knowledge. The concept that “knowledge can change destiny” is instilled in each student’s mind when they are at pre-school stage. Due to the examination-oriented education system, our society has put too much focus on textbook knowledge than moral education.

Local schools have been striving hard to attain academic excellence. Students are trained to answer different types of questions in public exams by attempting lots of tests in a week. It is common to see young learners attending tutorial schools after school to obtain examination tips or answering techniques. Scholarships are usually given to those who score excellent grades which may give them an incorrect message that achieving results with flying colours is the only way to be a good student. Students with unsatisfactory grades are often treated as mediocre, which lowers their self-esteem in pursuing personal development in other areas.

Schools lack time to provide enough moral education to our students. Under the new curriculum, teachers rush to finish teaching the examination syllabuses within a short period of time. Some of them even lack time to cover the whole curriculum, let alone sparing time to conduct moral education lessons. Apparently, most of the lesson time has to be spent on drilling and doing past exam papers, especially in senior forms.

The number of juvenile problems is increasing in recent years, which can be attributed to the inadequacy of ethics lessons. Teenagers have vague understanding about the relationships between opposite sex. The seriousness of compensated dating has been widely reported by the mass media. It is worrying that many secondary school students have involved in casual sex without regarding them as immoral. Drug abuse and cyber bullying are also popular among senior students. According to surveys done by youth groups, many students commit unethical behaviour because of ignorance. They believe pre-marital sex can strengthen the bonds between partners but disregard the life-long commitment of their relationships. These teenage problems can only be remedied by launching an extensive moral education curriculum.

We all want our future generations to be equipped with rich knowledge to help build a sustainable future. Deplorably, the current education system with the absence of moral education fails to pave the way for a promising future. Education is not only about marks. Such shortcoming in our education system must be rectified.

Janice Chan (2)

Inclusion Education does more harm than good

Recently, inclusion education has become a controversial issue in society. Some educationalists believe that it will be beneficial to students with special needs while others consider that it is better to separate them from their normal peers. In my view, I think that inclusion education is not suitable for disabled students as it will affect their learning and development.

Students have different learning pace. For normal students, they can learn and complete their homework efficiently and quickly compared to those with special needs. However, for students with special needs, they usually require more time and effort to learn. For example, students with intellectual disability may not be able to give response or understand the instructions given by teachers. Those having hyperactivity disorder are not able to concentrate during class. Therefore, how can we expect students with different learning pace to study in the same class and achieve good results? Worse still, disabled students may find it difficult to follow or catch up with the syllabus. Thus, they will have poor academic results and reduce their interest to learn.

Students with special needs may have low self-esteem as they find that they are different from normal students. When they were young children their parents took care of them. They might not realize that they were not as capable as normal students. If the disabled students have to study in a normal school, they may be less confident. For instance, physical disabled students will feel depressed and disappointed as they cannot have PE lessons with other students. Learners with visual impairment need more time to copy their notes during lessons. A lack of confidence will definitely affect their growth and development.

Although some may think that it will be more just if both groups of students can study together, discrimination will lead to serious consequences. Normal students may have prejudice against disabled students. For example, students with hearing impairment may feel isolated because they can hardly communicate with normal students. Being isolated will absolutely affect their relationship with others and hinder their development.

Inclusion education does more harm than good to students with special needs. I hope that the government and schools will think thoroughly before implementing the policy.

Clara So (22)

When I looked at myself in the mirror this morning, I was shocked...

I found myself in a very unfamiliar environment. Everything around me was so tall and gigantic.

"Is that a building?" I asked myself.

But why was there a building in my house? Looking at the mirror again, I finally knew what happened. I was only 20 cm tall, which was only one-eighth of my original height. Oh no! What had happened to me?

I shouted for help but no one responded. Perhaps my voice was too soft to be heard. To make matters worse, my mom was still sleeping and my dad was out of town for his business trip. He always travelled abroad to introduce his latest invention to different pharmaceutical factories. I had no other choices but to go to my mom's bedroom, hoping to wake her up. To the 20-cm me, the bed which I could usually climb on seemed like a mountain. I jumped! Failed ... Jumped again ... Failed! The bed was just far too high for me to reach.

What I could do was to sit by her bed and wait. Tick, tick, tick, tick ... my mom finally woke up!

When she got up from bed, my mom nearly stepped on me! Luckily, I shouted so loudly that she finally noticed my existence. My mom was shocked by my tremendous change in size. She rubbed her eyes to ensure she was not in a dream. Though she was horrified, she kept calm and placed me on the dining table. In order not to step on me or "sit" on me by mistake, she hung a bell on my neck. I looked like a puppy but for safety sake, I did not object.

Time passed extremely slowly as if the clock stopped ticking. My mom tore the toast into small pieces for me. It was really inconvenient for both of us. There were a lot of difficulties during the day. I could not sit on the sofa. I had to rely fully on my mom. She even prepared toothpicks for me as chopsticks so I could have food I wanted. She must be very tired as she looked after me the whole day.

To our surprise, my dad came home two days earlier than expected. He looked at me carefully. He did not scream or even appear to be worried. Without a word, he put me on the table again and gave me a candy. Slowly and softly, he told me he had mistakenly given me his latest invention, a special pill, as my stomach remedy. His new medicine aimed at changing the size of animals so that they could be caught more easily. He apologized to me incessantly. Fortunately, he had the prescription of changing me back to my original size. Although it was a scary experience, I knew how much my mom loved and cared for me. This would be counted as a meaningful experience, too.

Christie Chow F.6A (2012-2013)

When I looked at myself in the mirror this morning, I was shocked at the ghastly sight I was presented with. The last time I checked, I didn't have purple nails and toenails, nor did I have smudged mascara all over my eyes and definitely not pajamas that said "Rock On!"

I stared at myself in utter horror. Then reality hit me like a ton of bricks – I was in my 16-year-old daughter, Serenity's body. It took all of my willpower to stop myself from screaming in horror. Being the mature adult I was, I knew I had no choice but to live my daughter's life.

Getting dressed was a complete nightmare. Serenity had nothing sensible in her closet! Everything was either too revealing or too provocative. Sighing, I grabbed a T-shirt that said "I'm cute!" and yanked it on. I groaned. Why today, of all days, to be stuck in a teenager's body?

As I walked to school, I bumped into Serenity's best friends, Tracy and Amanda. "Hey Serenity, you look...different...today..." Amanda offered weakly.

I balked. Had I done something wrong?

Tracy roared with laughter. "What are you trying to do? Dress like your mom?"

I struggled to compose myself and walked on, pretending not to hear them. Was it really that important to fit in as a teenager? This was something I couldn't comprehend.

How I survived the first three classes of Algebra, I don't know. It was pure torture. Serenity's teacher kept droning on and on and on about things I didn't understand. I remember Serenity complaining about teachers at school and how torturous it was to have lessons. Experiencing life in my daughter's shoes, literally, was starting to change my perspective towards things.

I spent the rest of the day wandering around, feeling helpless and lost. High school was definitely not what I remembered it to be. I shuddered, recalling lunch. I had minded my own business, sat down at a table and ate lunch quietly when a figure loomed over me. I recognized this girl! She was Serenity's best friend since kindergarten, Anne! Finally, someone I could trust. I beamed at her, feeling grateful and overwhelmed.

A sneer found its way onto her beautiful face. "Stop looking at me like we're even friends Serenity. You're gross and a loser! Get lost, this is my table!"

Everyone nearby scuttled away with fear. I stared at their retreating figures, completely aghast. Serenity never told me she and Anne weren't friends anymore. I felt like a horrible mother. - a mother that her daughter couldn't confide in.

After countless awkward moments and embarrassing incidents, I stumbled home feeling worn and depressed. I had underestimated high school life. I was a mother that never listened. All I did was to scold Serenity for trying when I couldn't even survive a day in her life. I felt disgusted with myself for being the mother that Serenity couldn't trust.

"Hello? Earth to Mother? Moooom! Stop spacing out, I'm going to be late for school!"

My eyes snapped open and my nose was inches away from my breakfast. Impossible. Everything felt so real, it wouldn't have been just a dream. Nonetheless...

"Serenity, what do you say to grabbing some real breakfast at McDonald's?"

Her eyes popped out in disbelief.

I smiled. Life was going to take a turn for the better.

