

# "THE FIVE DIMENSIONAL EDUCATION" Proposed by Dr. Won Dong-yeon

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It has been said that the Korean people's enthusiasm for education finds practically no similarity in the world. Most Korean parents willingly sacrifice everything they have for the education of their children. During the Japanese colonial period, the denial of good education to Korean youth made our people aspire education as a national craze. Since the national liberation in 1945, it was natural for us to see all levels of schools springing up like mushrooms.

Yet, in an inverted proportion to the rapid growth of schools on all levels, the quality of education has degenerated. Why? What are the major causes hindering the development of quality education? Dr. Won Dong-yeon identifies the following five major detrimental causes that hinder the improvement of educational quality in our schools.

The first detrimental cause is the negligence of strengthening the "mental power" of our students. In general, our students are feeble-minded and cannot endure hardship. Because of their feeble mental power, most of our high school students can hardly concentrate their minds to a course of their study more than seven hours a day. The second detrimental factor in line with the first one is the weak physical stamina of students. Some of them doze off whenever they sit on a desk to study. The third detrimental factor is that our students are used to cram their heads up with knowledge as they are taught, and they are, therefore, not creative in their thinking. The Fourth detrimental factor is that most, if not, of our students have not been trained to manage their personal affairs in their daily lives. The fifth factor is that our students, having been unduly pressured to study, have not properly developed cordial human relations with friends--or sometime, with their own parents.

Take, for instance, the example of a water pail made of a number of wood strips. If one of the wood strips breaks down, the whole pail cannot contain water. Likewise, if a student has any one of the above five factors, he is bound to fail in his studies. At this point, the Word of God reminds us again of the

passage in Mark 12:32-33:

God is one and there is no other but Him. To love him with all your heart, with all your understanding and with all your strength, and to love your neighbor as yourself is more important than all burnt offerings and sacrifices.

Out of these passages, Dr. Won finds five cardinal principles of developing God-given human potentiality--"heart," "understanding," "strength," "love...yourself (self-management), and "love your neighbor (human relationship." This is a clue to develop "a total man--a wholesome personality." Herein is the basis of the Five Dimensional Education based on the Word of Go.

The first dimension of education is to train our students to develop their "heart--mental and spiritual power." After having diligently studied day and night to prepare their college entrance examination, the incoming freshmen often indulge themselves idle their time away, and often they drop away from college before their sophomore year and enlist in the army. After they get honorably discharged from the military, they return to their college, and then, most of them study very hard. What has made them change?

There is no doubt that the military drill that they had undergone had strengthened their mental power. While undergoing the hardship of military discipline, they had come to think of the meaning of life and considered on the future of their lives. They thus come to their age of discretion. In this regard, Christian faith can be the source of bringing young people to the state of mental maturity. Christian parents should not be concerned of their children taking active part in church activities, for what they learn in the Word of God will strengthen their spiritual power. Christian faith gives the sense of responsibility to young people; it enables them to get away from their ego-centric concept of life; it provides them with clear vision of life; it nurtures their mental strength to move ahead to realize their vision.

The second dimension of education is to develop their physical stamina. According to the Bible, a person's body is "God's temple." (I Cor 3:16) It also says: "Do you now know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have received from God?" (I Cor 6:19) If a student is going to study hard, he should have physical strength. Even if he is being endowed with an unusually bright brain, he may not sustain himself in study unless he has

physical stamina to sustain him.

Every body knows about this matter-of-factly truth. But they do not know well how to develop their physical strength apart from the common-sense talks about nutrients, good rest, and tonic medicines, etc. In addition to these common-sense measures, we have put the practice of the following five methods to our students: 1) sitting straight as a habit; 2) keeping muscles relaxed; 3) moving bowls regularly; 4) keeping physical organs such as eyes, ears, nose, mouth and the neck in good condition; and 5) sleeping soundly. But above all else, our students should keep their bodies clean and unspoiled, especially in their relations with their opposite sex.

The third factor of the Five Dimensional Education is the development of wisdom. As previously viewed, we live in an age of information and most of our educational programs are directed to impart more and more knowledge to our young people. Contrary to our heightened expectation of ushering in a new golden age through the increase of knowledge, we are living in an age of war against terrorism. This is to say that highly educated people do not know how to use knowledge properly and rightly.

The Bible has never said that the increase of knowledge will pave ways to a paradise. Instead, it emphatically stresses the importance of wisdom. Proverbs 4:7 says, "Wisdom is the principal thing, therefore get wisdom." Proverbs 24:5 says, "A wise man has great powers, and a man of knowledge increases strength." This is to say that knowledge without wisdom become useless. A dictionary definition of wisdom is the faculty of making the best use of knowledge. It is good judgement. When Solomon was told by God in his dream that he could ask for anything that he wanted, he said, "Give your servant a discerning heart" to distinguish good and evil. (I King 3:9)

Viewed from this perspective, what our students need most is the increase of their wisdom to distinguish good and evil, righteousness and injustice, and importance and urgency. The Five Dimensional Education stresses the following five factors: 1) The ability of managing knowledge; 2) the ability of seeing the whole before looking at parts; 3) the ability of commanding foreign languages; 4) the ability of making abstract concepts real; and 5) the ability of understanding nature clearly.

The fourth factor of the Five Dimensional Education is the development of self-management. In order to enjoy a good life, a person should possess many

things--wholesome health, wealth, honor, power etc. But most of them are hard to come by. Even if he or she is blessed with many of these things, it is not easy to manage them under control. Otherwise, wealth can slip away in no time. Power can disappear. Thus, we must educate our students to manage himself and their needs.

Among all the possessions a person possesses, the most valuable thing that he or she has to manage is time. As Benjamin Franklin said, "Time is money." But in another remark, he also said, "Time is the staff that life is made of." If we lose time, we are in fast losing life. Therefore, we should teach our students how to manage time. In the first place, they should have a clear concept of time. As St. Augustine questioned, time is nowhere. We cannot see it or touch it. Time has no form, nor weight. But time is everywhere, ubiquitous. In fact, time is in our mind--the past in our memory; the present in our consciousness, and the future in our hope and vision.

On the basis of this conceptual understanding of time, we should teach our students to manage time in terms of the following suggestions: 1) The prioritization of time to do more important things ahead of others in their daily activities according to their clear value standard; 2) the habit of having detailed plans for a day, a week, a month, a year; 3) the writing of his or her vision of life and "make it plain on tables," for "it will certainly come and will not delay." (Habakkuk 2:2-3); and 4) the imitation of the life of Jesus Christ as their model of life in human-management.

The fifth factor for the Five Dimensional Management is the development of cordial human relationship. Man is a special being created in God's image. As such, a person innately has "inalienable rights such as life, liberty and pursuit of happiness" as the Declaration of American Independence specified. That being the case, our students should internalize the biblical concept of man clearly in their minds.

Based on the Word of God, our students should develop human relations in the following sequence: 1) He or she should learn how to love himself or herself. This is not to say that every person should have "self-esteem" in such a way to look down on other people. On the contrary, we believe that the one who really love himself or herself can respect other people's rights and love them; 2) our students should learn how to love his or her family members, for "a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife and they will become one

flesh" as God ordained in the Garden of Eden; 3) our students should learn how to develop human skills in deepening their relationship with their friends and relatives in school and in society, for man is basically a social being; 4) they should develop their love of their nation, for without the national sovereignty, the whole people in this country would suffer as they did under Japanese colonial rule; and 5) finally, they should learn how to love all other peoples on this planet earth as members of humankind, especially in view of the fact that the whole world has become, as Marshall McLuhan had predicted in 1964, "a global village."