

Abstract

KEDI POLL 2016

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The purposes of Korean Educational Development Institute's KEDI POLL are first, to investigate how the public perceptions and the attitudes has been changed on the current Korean education. Second, to survey the public opinion about the current issues on Korean education. Third, to address the result of the KEDI POLL to public, thus provide the reliable analysis in order to establish and accomplish regarding the policies of Korean Education.

This survey was conducted 2000 people sampled from 39,576,071 adults between 19~75 in their ages. As the previous the research, this survey was only conducted online for a month, from August 5th till August 31st, 2016.

The questionnaire consisted 52 items into 9 categories, which include : role of the government in public education and quality of school education; teachers, curriculum management, student life; policies for high school education and college admission; educational welfare and finance; higher education; pending issues on education; viewpoint on education. The results are as follows.

First, the public's views on administrative authority in public education, the analysis shows that it is desirable to establish and accomplish education policy and curriculum nationally by the central government from kindergarten to secondary school. Meanwhile, academic achievement standards which directly influence learners' outcomes should be implemented and evaluated by municipal and provincial education offices. Lastly, the

principal of each school should be responsible for their student rights on basic learning.

Second, as a role and function of education, the environment has rapidly changed due to development of science and technology which promotes self-learning and problem solving in elementary school and middle school. Likewise, career exploration and vocational education should be emphasized more in high school.

Third, the majority of participants evaluate the education in elementary school and middle school as average. however, some express negative opinions on the survey. Contrary to the fact, the result indicates that a large number of participants have negative views in high school that the government should be particularly more focused on current issues in high school. In order to gain a good feedback from public regardless of the level of school, some priority should be provided such as a personalized counseling and advice, student guidance(character education, safety), improvement of the quality of contents and methods, well-designed facilities and environment.

Fourth, the public opinion on teachers' ability and their qualifications are evaluated as a average. Since the research of 2013, it has been slightly rising which means trust in teacher has been improved. One of the most important skills for teacher in elementary school is life guidance; for teacher in middle school is study guidance; for high school teacher is career guidance and guidance on university admissions.

Fifth, social studies which includes history and ethics should be nationally emphasized. The contents of education need to be strengthened are character education and creative education for elementary school and middle school as well as career education and character education for high school.

Sixth, the majority of participants think that the primary skills that should be focused on are creative thinking skill and self-management skill for elementary and middle school students. Additionally, information processing skill needs to be strengthened for high school students.

Seventh, the students' addictive tendencies toward IT gadgets and the stress in school still remain as high. On the contrary, their level of humanity and morality are generally evaluated as low. The respondents believe that the family is one of factor that influences school violence and responsible for their humanity. The class of school violence prevention programs that how to deal with violence and abuse should be more enforced. Meanwhile,

there should be more attention to the management of preschoolers and truants in order to prevent child abuse.

Eighth, The majority of the participants agree that formative assessment in class should be emphasized. Parents is to be believed one of the most influential factor in student's learning outcomes. Additionally, The policy of linking EBS courses to the college scholastic ability test is one of the efficient policies to reduce private education expenses. The statistic shows that more than 70 percent of the respondents think that the policy should be remained.

Ninth, over 60 percent of the participants agree with the policy of high school standardization and more than 50 percent still agree with high school diversification. Furthermore, They also agree that career education should be more expanded in general high school as vocational high school and meister high school.

Tenth, the participants believe that special skill, aptitude, humanity and volunteer experience should be the first priority for college admission. There is not much gap between the question of whether regular admission or provisional admission should be more considered for college admission. They believe that the competition would be less for college admission. However, the competition for the prestige college would be remained.

Eleventh, many participants agree to free school meal plans for all students regardless of classes. They also agree that students from low-income families should be the first priority for the financial support. High percent of the participants think that the first priority for educational budget should be spent on free child-care for toddlers and education support for the underprivileged. The opinion on declining number of students and scale of educational finance, the participants answer that educational finance should be remained as recent or reduced in the medium and long term after improvement of educational conditions as a developed countries.

Twelfth, the participants think that the universities do not educate students well enough for the society. They show the lack of trust in the faculty members' qualifications and performances. They value the most important indicators for university assessment are qualification of faculty member, transparency, adequacy, and the quality of the management. They also agree that the regional university support should be remained.

Thirteenth, the respondents believe that the most influential factor in education for the future society is decline in school-age population because of low birth rate and aging

population. They think that these are the policies that should be emphasized : early childhood education curricula, elementary school child care programs, national scholarship support. They also believe that normalization of public education should be made first rather than focusing on the government's six education reform. They agree on expansion of free semester system to other classes and schools. and maintaining direct elections of provincial education superintendents.

Fourteenth, high percent of the participants would find alternative school, if their child refuses to enter regular school. They agree that high school graduates should have opportunity for recruitment in a certain percentage. As the previous research 2015, the highest percent of participants think that the criterion in success of their education is their child to get a good job. The participants believe that the discrimination still remains severe according to one's certification of graduation or university, and they have negative views on academic factionalism and ranking college.

The followings recommendations of policy is based the research outcome :

First, there needs to be clear division and specific criteria for allocation of educational authority among the minister of education, superintendent of education and principal in order to operate clearly with their adequate rights and responsibilities.

Second, skill-oriented curriculum that individual can develop with their aptitude and ability should be provided within innovation in education systems and future-oriented school in order to adapt for the future society.

Third, the investment in education should be more focused on personalized counseling and advice, student guidance(character education, safety), improvement of the quality of contents and methods, well-designed facilities and environment.

Fourth, professional education programs that is focused on character and career need to be nationally developed and spread. Also there needs to be follow-up policy that encourages and supports the program for teachers and schools.

Fifth, beside training skills of learning guidance and study guidance, teacher training programs should be strengthened these followings : communication skills with students and parents, career guidance and guidance on university admissions.

Sixth, the research that analyze students' stress in school should be developed and there should be a solution for students' mental and physical health reducing their stress.

Seventh, educational environment should be more learner-centered and personalized individually that student can discover and achieve their learning outcomes.

Eighth, despite of decline in number of students, the scale of educational finances should be remained and focused on quality of education rather than reducing the budget.

Ninth, besides the role of college that is to educate and research, it should be contributed to society as introducing right human resources and leading the society for better change.

Tenth, the policies which get supports from the public need to be consistently monitored and developed for efficient strategies so that it can be successfully expanded.

Eleventh, ongoing policies and challenge should be made to improve and alleviate for social structure of qualification-oriented and academic factionalism which needs to be fixed.

Key words: education poll, education policy, pending education issues, educational views, public opinion trend