

A study of establishing future oriented educational system in an era of declining number of students

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Since 1980s, the number of students have decreased and such decreasing trend is expected to be continued for 10 years to come. Although various educational policies were employed in response to the decreasing number of students for past 35 years, they merely served as countermeasures without much long-term outlook. Hence, it is essential to establish a long-term policy with macroscopic analysis of the declining number of students. This research proposes how the educational system should be transformed considering decreasing number of students and political efforts required to achieve the transformation. Also it presents a solution to the decreasing number of students within the boundary of future education.

This research incorporates reference analysis, scenario method, conferences, domestic and foreign case studies, expert consultation and colloquium. While performing scenario method, social and educational policies of last two decades were analyzed drawing a social megatrend. This research analyzed the potential influence of the megatrend of the past two decades on current and future education, and it also identified variables significant to the education of future two decades. With application of BASICS(Battelle Scenario Inputs to Corporate Strategies) method, significance of

numerous variables were evaluated, and an explorative study was conducted to draw prediction of future education scenario whereas normative study was utilized to draw desired future education scenario.

Variable identification process was conducted in following steps. First, potentially significant variables were added to a variable pool considering each variables' impact on change in the number of students, megatrend's influence on education and effects of past policies on education. Subsequently, conference and investigation of relevant experts were completed leaving educational principle, purpose, and format as well as financial investment as final significant variables, and the scenario was constituted based on these final variables as well as their inner workings.

General form of future education that all scenarios share incorporates the followings : flexible lifelong learning system, enhanced municipal authority, uncertainty management training, school as center of integrated service for adolescents, project centered individualized education, smart device assisted individual evaluation of learning history, teachers with enhanced mentoring capabilities, school as a transformer-smart learning space, education system with regional networks, society which learning and caring are communal responsibilities.

Among the desired, pessimistic and predicted scenarios, the characteristics of the predicted scenario are as followings. Socioeconomic division will be applied to the field of education and competition as well as hierarchizing intensifies. Such inequality draws political intervention resulting to development of ubiquitous educational environment providing various forms of institutions as well as development of universal credit system. In reaction to such reformations, the government will expand investments in education and welfare to maintain quality of public education and secure substantial budget.

In the desired scenario, the society appraises individualized education offering customized education for everyone. Consequently, various form of school become available through ubiquitous educational environment promoting universal credit system and education itself becomes more diversified. Educational budget is also firmly secured with such individualized; hence optimized education, under government's vision of becoming a global educational leader.

According to the pessimistic scenario, diversification and choices of education become subject of socioeconomic discrimination intensifying educational hierarchy. The focus of educational system lies on the elite leaving most of the students neglected. The caring function of households is transferred to schools without additional resources resulting in gradual depletion of school's educational capabilities. Investment on education becomes secondary and decreases with increasing number of senior citizens requiring significant investments on senior welfare.

	Scenario Title	Principle	Goal	Format	Financial Investment
Predicted	"3 Families under one roof"	Marketization	Equality	Network	Increased
Desired	"Every one is a hero"	Quasi-Public	Equality	Network	Increased
Pessimistic	"Zero Sum Game"	Marketization	Supremacy	enclosed	Reduced

To make the desired scenario be the feasible future, marketization of education should be prevented and political efforts to make education quasi-public are required. Also, future education's principle, purpose, format and financial investments should be guided to become public, equal, network forming and expanding in lieu of obtaining marketizing, emphasizing supremacy, clustering and reducing characteristics.

This research defines desirable human character in the future to be creative and humane person with devotion to the mankind, and it also proposes that the goal of future education is to cultivate people of talent inducing social paradigm shifts by providing quasi-public education. The characteristics of future-oriented education are defined as followings. It encourages citizenship as well as humane behaviors, and the quality as well as accessibility of education is maintained simultaneously through formation of democratic educational administration influencing various areas of the society as well as the world.

To fulfil aforementioned future society, this research proposes four core policies regarding the future education. First the function and format of schools should be rearranged in accordance with the needs of future society. The objective of elementary and secondary education should be reestablished, and public nature of education should be consolidated. Lastly, training of future faculties suitable to modified roles

should be devised.

As a solution to continued decline in student population, policies that cultivate teachers as well as their capabilities in accordance with their future roles are required. Furthermore, policies should establish environments with readily available resources and secure sufficient funds for the individualized future education. The policy regarding faculties is considered to be one of core future education policies as well as solution to decreasing number of students.

Moreover, this research proposes policies inducing following changes in addition to above core policies. School formats should be diversified and academic credit system needs to be more flexible. Education and labor should be integrated, and curriculums should be reconstituted with focus on projects. The learning process and evaluation should praise digital capabilities and it should also reduce college-preparatory competition by reforming higher education to be lifelong learning process. Educational administration should be democratic and autonomous forming cooperative governance with the civil administration. Also future and vision capability of educational administration should be enhanced. Educational institutions should take leading roles in establishing educative environment regionally.