

The final reflection for Global Vision Corner-Language Exchange

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In class, we had a heated discussion on the article "Women who beat poverty to found own firms tells students to pursue dreams". I would like to put forward my thoughts on the suggestions made by this woman and explain why Taiwanese students always say "this is my fault".

It seems to me that the core content of Yu Su Kuan's speech is not to advocate that students from poor families can succeed if they work harder, but to encourage all students to try and face failure. There was a popular film about a professor of a foreign university explaining why students shouldn't cheat. He said that is not because it's unfair, but it makes people form a bad habit of being irresponsible and wanting to be lazy. Taiwan's education is the same. Under the pressure of achievement orientation for a long time, what Taiwan's students learn to ask their teachers for the best and the most correct answer rather than studying freely and asking questions about the knowledge they are interested in. Students are no longer willing to take a long way on the road of learning but want to climb the shortcut.

Yu Su Kun wanted to teach these students the courage to break through the prison instead of the shortcut to escape poverty. Maybe people will misunderstand that poverty limits the possibility of everyone's success, in fact, it is the world we create that limits our imagination. If students always want to take shortcuts, we will be more and more afraid of failure and the unknown. Although sometimes there are some interesting ideas, they refuse to try because they are too afraid of failure. In the end, people will fall into the situation that you can only envy others to climb out of the abyss, but still squat alone in the dark and cry.

According to the PISA survey in 2018, Taiwanese students are the most afraid of failure in the world. There are three questions in the survey: "When I failed, I was worried about what other people would think of me.", "When I fail, I'm afraid that I don't have talent.", "When I fail, I will question my future plan.", and calculate the "index of fear of failure" from the answer. On average, female students are more afraid of failure than male students, and Taiwan's male and female students are the most afraid of failure in the world. Students in other Asian countries are also more afraid of failure, while students in Europe, especially in the Netherlands and Germany, are not afraid of failure.

Although the PISA survey did not explain why Taiwanese students are so afraid of failure, it may have something to do with Confucian culture. In Confucian culture, people are often required to reflect on themselves before blaming others. Only when they are good enough they can do other things well. Even in the student stage, teachers often used collective punishment, which leads to the amplification of our mistakes. In addition, the teachers often develop students' independent ability by assigning duties, so when students need to be responsible, the fault tolerance rate becomes smaller.

These reasons make students in Taiwan think it's their own fault even if they think it's unreasonable when facing setbacks. Unreasonable guilt will make students more afraid of failure and form a vicious circle.

The link of PISA survey (in Mandarin):

<https://www.facebook.com/numeracylab/photos/a.1113622675325424/2738231802864495/?type=3&theater>

The video about student shouldn't cheat:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jCZsK5ZrwrQ>

It's a semester that feels the pace of the class is quite impatient, but all the topics discussed in this semester are still wonderful. I had a great time. I don't need credits anymore, but I will still come to GVC next semester (the last semester of college!).