

Social Education



Learning is a lifelong process. Lifelong learning empowers people to share ideas, to awaken new interests or re-ignite an old passion, to prepare for a job or to remain current and competitive in an existing position.

Taiwan's rich educational resources provide innovative opportunities for the needs of traditional and non-traditional learners, as proven by attendance at supplementary schools and courses.

A "Virtuous Taiwan" campaign was launched in June 2009 to develop Taiwan into a more virtuous society by stressing character-building education, grounding in the arts, lifelong reading and environmental sustainability, with a budget of NT\$ 1.2 billion.

Supplementary education is meant to raise the average level of education in the society as a whole. Key components include fundamental supplementary education, supplementary advanced education and short-term supplementary education. In SY 2009, a total number of 24,037 students enrolled in 524 fundamental supplementary schools; 92,752 students enrolled in 223 supplementary advanced senior secondary schools; 31,775 students enrolled in 42 supplementary advanced junior colleges; and 24,633 students enrolled in 43 supplementary advanced colleges.

As for Open University, the total number of students reached 16,029 in the 2009-2010 school year.

Meanwhile, a well-rounded social education system had helped Taiwan's illiteracy rate among those over 15 years old to drop from 4.72 % of the population in 1999 to 2.09 % by the end of 2009 (from 819,087 down to 403,516).

MOE-sponsored institutions, such as community colleges, provide courses for adults, especially those who have had to discontinue their schooling (mostly females over the age of 55) and the growing population of foreign spouses who wish to learn Mandarin, Taiwanese, and English. Subjects range from Chinese language, foreign languages and computer skills, to musical instruments and dancing. The annual budget allocated by the MOE's Department of Social Education to subsidise community colleges was NT\$ 240 million in 2010.

The MOE has also established a general learning certification system, organised basic education classes for adults and encouraged foreign spouses to attend



language classes or receive further education.

331 Movement

This February, the Ministry of Education initiated the "331" movement, encouraging all citizens to "exercise more, learn more and be more compassionate toward others." The movement urges people of all ages to exercise for at least thirty minutes a day, to study for at least thirty minutes on a daily basis and to do a good deed each day.

