



17. Social Education

Social education is implemented to all citizens of Taiwan. There are many educational programs for the people to choose from. Programs include: supplementary education and continuing education, education on-the-air, adult and life-long learning, national language education, citizen's education, art education, library education, museum education, audio-visual education, family education and guidance in spiritual renewal. The purpose of these programs is to help citizens elevate their general levels of education and culture in Taiwan. The following is a summary of the conditions of social education in Taiwan today.

1. Supplementary Schools

Supplementary education is designed to supplement regular education, raise education attainment, teach practical skills, and upgrade productivity. The schools mainly offer education to out-of-school citizens as well as on-the-job youths. In 2002, there are 34,979 students in 358 primary supplementary schools; 16,662 students in 283 junior high supplementary schools; 235 senior high and senior vocational continuing schools with 5,166 students attending the former and 94,993 students attending in the latter; 69,059 students in 42 junior college continuing schools, and 18,682 students in 33 college continuing schools.

2. Special Education

Special education aims at providing proper education to the students with mental or physical challenges and those who are specially gifted for the purpose of developing their mental and physical potentials, fostering sound characters and improving the capacities to serve the community. Special individual educational programs shall be made for physically and mentally challenged students in consideration of their specific needs of learning

in order to ensure that those students receive education that are really suitable for them. In 2002, there were four schools for the hearing impaired, with students totaling 965; three schools for the blind with 425 students; nine schools for the mentally handicapped with 3,015 students; one school for the physically challenged with 376 students; and seven schools for special education with 1,019 students. Furthermore, there are 3,502 special classes in several primary schools, junior high schools and senior vocational schools for the slightly mentally or physically challenged admitted a total of 48,612 students. For the specially gifted, special classes were opened in several primary schools, junior high schools and senior high and senior vocational schools to improve guided education. In 2002, classes for the gifted, including those in music, art, physical education, dance and opera, totaled 1,692, with an enrollment of about 47,189.

3. Social Education Institutions

In order to offer multiple learning channels and to establish life-long learning networks, a variety of public/private social educational institutions have been set up to take the responsibility. In 2002, more than 500 institutions exhibit different subjects and education themes depending on their specialization. Such institutions include cultural centers, national libraries, public libraries, various museums, social education halls, scientific exhibition halls, art education centers, fine art museums, memorial halls, concert halls, opera theaters, visual art performance halls, zoos, botanical gardens, and recreation centers for children. As far as the private sector is concerned, more than 2,000 cultural and educational foundations and 232 working centers established and operated by the private sector are engaged in promoting social education and conducting relevant activities in 2002.

4. Educational Radio Broadcasting & Television Stations

To supplement school education and meet goals on social education, the National Education Radio Broadcasting Station and the UHF System of the Chinese Television Station are established to take on such important tasks. The National Education Radio Broadcasting Station broadcasts lecture programs ten hours each day. Scheduled programs include classes for high school and college, programs on literature, the arts, music and social service. The educational programs are broadcasted to the public eight hours a day on average through the UHF system. These programs include on-air lectures of the curricula and courses for the National Open Universities, National Open Colleges and National Open Junior Colleges.

5. Education in the Arts

Extensive effort has gone into the planning and sponsorship of national awards for literary and artistic creations. Meanwhile, the MOE has held art contests for students in the areas of music, dancing, arts, and folk-song singing. It also takes the initiative to provide counseling and subsidy for art-related departments in universities and colleges, performance groups, and social educational agencies, as a way to encourage their sponsorship of art education activities, exhibitions and performances. Moreover, the MOE also guides and assists in performance programs and traveling shows by the Symphony Orchestra of the National Concert Hall, the National Experimental Chinese Orchestra, the Experimental Choir, and the National Kuo-Kuang Chinese Opera Company.

6. Family Education

Since 1986, with the support of the MOE, Family Education & Information Centers have been set up in succession in all counties and cities, and three centers for research in family education have been established respectively at the National Taiwan Normal University, the

National Chi Nan University and the National Chiayi University. These centers are responsible for offering educational supports for the public to obtain information needed regarding issues about parenting, gender, marriage, and family ethics as well as to enhance their relevant understandings and capacities. In order to advocate the concept of life-long learning and to build a leaning community, the MOE draws up projects focused on the promotion of family education which aim to put the concept of life-long learning into the daily life of every family and foster the motives to learn within every family, thus making family a desirable environment for learning and growth of each member. In addition, the promulgation and implementation of the Family Education Law in February 2003 also symbolizes another major accomplishment of our efforts to promote family education.

7. Life Long Education and Establishment of a Learning Society

The MOE has issued a white paper entitled "Moving towards A Learning Society". From 1999 to 2003, the MOE will launch 14 actively promotional programs outlined in the said white paper, which support the paper's education reform recommendations. This has resulted in a new design plan for Taiwan, which in turn will help lead it towards becoming a learning society. It will reinforce the competitive strength of the nation during its movement toward the 21st century by increasing personal knowledge and skills, displaying the best potential capabilities, and broadening the view toward international affairs.

