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Topic: Hong Kong students become bookworms

### Hong Kong students become bookworms

If you turn on the television, you will in all likelihood see a journalist interviewing students who have passed exams with satisfactory results. However, most of them, if not all, do not have social skills or common sense, which are indispensable elements to succeed in the workplace. What are the underlying reasons to explain this? In the following paper, I will give three reasons to explain this social phenomenon.

There are three culprits to the problem; Hong Kong's ossified education system is the first one. It is a common fact that our education system spoon-feeds students and only emphasizes passing exams with flying colors. More often than not, students are required to finish mountains of exercises and spend most of their school time focusing on practice-drilling and exam-orientated skills. Therefore, it is no wonder that under these circumstances students are good at passing exams. However, most schools do not place much emphasis on nurturing students on how to socialize with others. Worse still, some students are very poor at communicating with others and do not know how to collaborate in a group. These students fully absorb knowledge from books but fail to learn social skills and common sense. By lacking these elements, it is barely possible for these types of students to be successful in the workplace.

Alongside the exam-orientated education system, the second culprit is the lack of hands-on working experience for students. Within both the secondary and university education systems, it is very rare to send students to a workplace as an intern. As we all know, internships are a conducive opportunity for students to get in touch with someone they do not know. As a result, students can learn how to communicate with others through internships. Most of the time, these interns have to work collaboratively with the company. Moreover, these students need to differentiate between right and wrong before doing something. However, most schools only focus on students' academic performances and ignore the fostering of a well-rounded development for students. Therefore, social skills and common sense cannot be developed and the students are more likely to become studying machines due to the lack of work experience.

Apart from the lack of hands-on working experience of students, the last culprit is our erroneous social atmosphere. As a matter of fact, 'Monster Parents' desire their kids to get admitted to a top university. However, the only way to achieve this is to gain a phenomenal exam result. Therefore, with the unceasing pushing of academic results, these parents may be under the illusion that academic results outweigh everything else. Thus, they ban their kids from socializing with friends and require them to study ceaselessly. However, it is invaluable for teenagers to develop a circle of friends so as to learn how to get along with others. Granted, a good academic result is an inseparable key to success, what is far more essential in a

workplace is getting along with others. With so few chances for students to communicate with others, it is impossible for them to develop social skills and common sense. Thus, thanks to the erroneous social atmosphere, it is not possible for students to succeed in the workplace.

Ultimately, what our society needs is not bookworms that cram knowledge, but well-rounded individuals who are also capable of communicating and collaborating in the workplace.