

# Comparative Analysis of Eastern and Western Educational Culture

Min Zheng

Foreign Language School, Kunming University, 650214

**Abstract:** *Learning is the eternal theme of mankind. Education is the key to the success or failure of a country. It plays a more and more important role in today's society. This paper mainly studies the differences of learning motivation, learning methods and culture between eastern and western people, so as to explore the root causes of different education between the East and the West, as well as better learning methods in the future.*

**Keywords:** Education, Japan, India, Israel.

## 1. Introduction

Learning is the eternal theme of mankind. Education is the key to the success or failure of a country. It plays a more and more important role in today's society. So, what do we study for? What is the difference between East and West learning motivation? What is the way of education in other countries in the world? What kind of education is the best in the future? With such questions, we began to discuss the education of some countries between East and West.

## 2. Eastern Education

### 2.1 Korea & China

South Korean high school students are desperate for exams, and the college entrance examination questions are very difficult. Before the college entrance examination, they will participate in all kinds of tutoring. During the tutoring period, they will live in a small room of 5 square meters. Korean parents will go to temples to pray for their children, hoping that their children can enter an ideal university. The purpose of Korean studying is mostly for their own benefits and to marry an ideal partner in the future. Because only by going to a good school can you marry a high-quality partner, find a good job and live a decent life in the future [1]. Chinese college entrance examination candidates are also particularly bitter. Everyone's study is based on "today's efforts, for tomorrow's brilliance." Students are very hard-working. Many students in famous schools turn off the lights at night and continue to study in their own bed. Many Tsinghua and Peking University students study for the purpose of revitalizing China. They shoulder the responsibility of society. This makes Korean college students shudder, because they are basically looking for jobs and partners.

### 2.2 Japan

Japanese children like interdependence and integration, and do not pursue excellence and particularity. So their team spirit is very good. During the college entrance examination, everyone will hold a group to deal with the exam, and will not think about who will beat who. So there will be division of labor and cooperation in the class. Some students are responsible for taking mathematical notes, while others are responsible for taking historical notes, etc. Those who are

specifically responsible for a discipline will make their notes in detail, and then share them within the class. So they all rush for the college entrance examination together. The notes of these children admitted to the University of Tokyo can be sold for money, and someone will buy them every year [2]. On the day of the outcome of the college entrance examination, Japan also has a publishing culture to publish a list of successful candidates or applicants. On this day, people all wear kimonos and formal clothes to accept the outcome. Relatives and friends will cheer and celebrate the students who have been admitted to the ideal university. The Japanese have been choosing schools since kindergarten. The famous Waseda and the University of Tokyo have corresponding kindergartens, primary schools and middle schools to universities. So as long as they enter their kindergarten without accidents, it means that children can smoothly enter these good famous schools in the future. Therefore, the competition in education is quite fierce. Japanese parents are also willing to invest in their children's education. The Japanese advocate the rich. Because they think that people are rich are because they work hard enough, and people are poor are because you don't work hard enough. Therefore, rich people in Japan also pay special attention to the education of their children. In Japan, it costs about 2.82 million RMB to train a child to enter a famous school, while it costs only 0.186 million RMB to train a child to go to an ordinary university [3]. Therefore, the gap is still large. 70% of high school students in Japan will attend private tutoring classes before the college entrance examination, so there is a famous tutoring street in Japan called "Jun". After entering the University, Japanese universities also have the richest community organizations in the world. There are paper-cut societies, ramen tasting societies, snowball fighting societies, Japanese joke societies and so on, which are strange and diverse. If a child fails to enter a good university, a diligent child can still live with dignity. Because in Japan, people especially respect the one who do small things well. In particular, the eldest son of the family has the obligation to inherit his ancestral inheritance. Therefore, the Japanese have the spirit of craftsmanship. Generally, a small workshop may have a history of hundreds of years. The inheritance and preservation of Japanese corporate culture is very good. Therefore, even if a child can't get into a good university, he can also become a great craftsman.

### 2.3 India

Indian children have to go through the most difficult test in the

world, which is the IIT test. There is MIT in the United States and IIT in India, which is the most difficult University in the world. Because IIT is no less famous than MIT. 15% of entrepreneurs in Silicon Valley graduated from IIT, 32% of NASA researchers graduated from IIT, and 12% of American doctors graduated from IIT [1]. So this school is the most important one to change the fate of Indians. Therefore, many people apply for this school every year, and the admission rate is very low, so the competition is quite fierce. India also has a famous tutorial base for the college entrance examination called “keshe”, where thousands of students are studying hard. Indian examination is mainly to test students’ memory, and absolutely ensure the freshness of the examination questions, which has never been in the market, which greatly improves the difficulty of the examination.

### 3. Western Education

#### 3.1 Israel

Israel is a gathering place for Jews. 23% of the world’s Nobel laureates are Jews, 179 people. Such as Einstein and Freud are all Jews. One third of Harvard is Jewish, 25% of Yale is Jewish, and 30% of Ivy League professors are Jewish [1]. Almost all investment of banks in the United States are invested by Jews; The Federal Reserve was founded by Jews; Jews control American banks, the world’s top 100 enterprises, the press, Hollywood and so on. The secret of Jewish success lies in their enthusiasm for education. Jews carry books wherever they go. Let’s take a look at their educational characteristics. On the sabbath, the whole family will eat together. At this time, the father has to talk to the child, ask the child about the difficulties and problems encountered in learning, encourage and help him solve them, but parents never force the child to study, but attach great importance to the children’s sleep, because Jews think that the child’s intelligence is related to the child’s sleep time and the child’s activity in the classroom, so the classroom in Israel is very active [4]. They like debate, and Israelis believe that this can better cultivate children’s desire to explore knowledge. In addition, there is no college entrance examination in Israel. Children can learn what they want to learn, and teachers can teach what they want to teach, so everyone is very relaxed, and their enthusiasm for teaching and learning will not be suppressed and destroyed. After graduating from high school, Israelis are required to perform military service, regardless of gender. After military service, the state will give them a lot of money [1]. These children will take the money to travel around the world, look around and feel life. Then they can decide which university they want to go to and what major they want to study. If you have a clear learning goal, your learning motivation will be strong, so the learning effect will be very significant. This is why the proportion of Jews among Nobel Laureates in the world is the highest, because they know what do they love and love to learn.

#### 3.2 France & UK

The French are very philosophical and their education is full of philosophy. Many of the topics in the college entrance examination are philosophical problems, and many news comments in life also use philosophical thinking to analyze the philosophical problems reflected behind this event. The

most typical education in Oxford University is one-on-one tutoring, and students cherish the conversation with professors. Students will make careful preparations before each conversation, and after each conversation, students will improve greatly. Therefore, Oxford University has trained many scientists and prime ministers. In addition, the dinner culture of Oxford University is also very helpful for learning. At dinner time, Oxford students will sit at the school round table in formal clothes [1]. On the one hand, it is to cultivate students’ good etiquette culture, and on the other hand, it is to provide students of various disciplines with an interdisciplinary communication opportunity. Because Oxford University believes that only with interdisciplinary communication can a person really become a problem-solving and comprehensive talent.

#### 3.3 United States

American high schools adopt the credit system. The content of elective courses is very rich, and the content set up in different high schools is also different. Elective courses in general high school include: Car maintenance, carpentry, metalworking, housekeeping, computer art, Chinese web design, preliminary accounting, and a series of sports, such as golf, fencing, fitness, shooting, bowling, etc. [5] American universities require students to have the potential to continue their study in the university when entering the University, so they will check whether students have the potential of good moral character, excellent physical quality and leadership ability. The school will evaluate your participation in social activities and voluntary work in middle school. It also requires teachers to write letters of recommendation to students. In addition, students have a file, from primary school to high school, whether they have been expelled or not, you can find out by checking.

### 4. Conclusion

Through the above discussion of eastern and western education culture, we will find many differences between eastern and western education. Easterners learn more for their families, while Westerners learn more for their own interests; Easterners promote their children’s progress by urging them, while Westerners like to praise and encourage their children to make progress; Easterners focus on team integration, while Westerners focus on children’s thinking ability, which should be different. The East is rice culture and the west is wheat culture. Wheat basically doesn’t need to take care of it, while rice needs to be taken care of carefully. Therefore, oriental people will be more diligent than Westerners. This is a different working habit formed from the agricultural society. Easterners are good at reciting, while Westerners are good at asking questions; Easterners pay more attention to their inner feelings, while Westerners pay more attention to gaining advantages in discussion; Easterners are good at compromise, while Westerners like to argue. What kind of education is the best? Schopenhauer once said: “the difference between genius and ordinary people is that ordinary people regard learning as a means of making a living, while genius regards learning as a pleasure. In learning, he has improved his life.” [1] Therefore, the future education must be an educational method with students as the main body and the purpose of education is to stimulate the learning enthusiasm of students. We should give

children more opportunities to experience life, let them find their interests in learning, find learning goals, think more and ask more questions in learning. Education is a long-distance race, not a sprint. Parents don't have to worry that their children will lose at the starting line. They should give their children more time to explore the world and slowly accompany them to grow up.

## References

- [1] KBS < Homo academy > (Korea), the War of Study [M] CITIC press, 2014,8
- [2] Ikegu Yuer (Japan), Examination of Brain Science [M] People's Posts and Telecommunications Press, 2019,7
- [3] Jia Xiaohan, Chinese Proficiency Test in Japan and Its Reference Significance [J] Language and Character Application, 2006, (2)
- [4] Fu Qiansheng&Zhu Hairong, Research on Immersion Teaching Experimental Environment [ [J] Laboratory Research and Exploration, 2007, (5)
- [5] Fan Fang, I Teach High School in the United States [M] East China Normal University Press, 2008