

このごろ小学生の教育というと受験を軸にしたお勉強をどうするかばかりが論じられるようになりました。とりわけ日本の不景気が長期化し、保護者の関心が授業料の安い公立高校への入学に向けられるようになったのが一つのきっかけでした。従来から加熱していた受験熱が私学校から公立学校へと推移しはじめたおりに登場した公立中高一貫教育校は、父母達によって新たなチャレンジターゲットとしてその存在が崇められ、子ども達を激しい受験競争に駆り立てていくことになったのです。

もともと公立中高一貫校設立の趣旨は、考える力と意欲を持った学力の高い少年少女達を選抜することで、将来、国際社会で活躍し、リーダーシップをとれる人材を育成するというものですが、今ではすっかり衣替えして、難関国公立および難関私立大学に合格するための予備校となっています。論より証拠といきましょうか。公立中高一貫教育校の校長が学校案内等の講演をする場合、必ずとっていいほど、今年はどの大学に何名合格したのかをことこまかに解説するのが常です。

しかし、そのような変身ぶりには、それなりの理由がありました。というのは、設立趣旨の高邁な指針の裏では初めから、私学に受験の主導権を握られてしまった現実を、昔のように公立の手に取り戻すという文科省の本音が見え隠れしていたのですから。こうして、青少年の教育は立派な社会人になるための学校教育を軽んじ、進学塾を軸にした、入試対策の予備学習に重点を置くようになってきており、大学教育に至るまで、教育改革の道筋は大手予備校のノウハウを活用した入試改革論議に終始するという迷路をたどっています。

教育がこんなていたらくでは、国政選挙の投票率が上がらず、憲法論議や評価も深まらず、立憲主義に基づく民主主義が現政権によって大きく歪められていることに気づかない国民が多いのも当然のことです。そして、国民を愚かなままにしておいて、国政を一部の政治家達がかってにとりしきる現状をよしとするとしたら、今の日本には平和な未来は望めません。その代わりに、平和を維持するためという詭弁によって生み出される巨大な軍事体制が殺戮という悪の限りを尽くすことになるでしょう。それは明治維新から第二次世界大戦にかけて日本が経験した、天皇を頂点とする権力構造のなかでもがいた悪夢の再現ということになりかねません。

---

Nowadays in every case that they say about the compulsory education at elementary school, their viewpoint of which is apt to be concentrated only at the issue of entrance examinations. Above all, the Japanese recession extended over a long period of time, many parents turned their heads toward the economic problem of school fees, and pay attention to various public schools where students can study under reasonable tuition.

While such a overheating mood to take junior high school entrance examination began to shift from private schools to public ones, suddenly a new conceptual public school “ unified lower –upper secondary school system ” was announced by the government, which is to be a longing goal for parents as the new challenging target of entrance examination, then their children became urged to the fiercely competitive entrance examination.

The original purpose to found the unified lower-upper secondary school system was based on selection of young students having high potentials to think about everything with ambition. Then, they should be educated as talented persons to take the leadership in future, and working in worldwide stages. But unfortunately, this original mission has changed completely and they take on a different appearance as the preparatory school system for fiercely competitive entrance examinations of public or private famous universities. The proof of the pudding is in the eating; as a principal of unified lower –upper secondary school has his lecture to introduce his own school, in most cases, he tells us in details; “ how many students could pass examinations of famous competitive universities this year . ”

As a matter of course, there is a reason why such a discrepancy caused between the idea and the reality; that is to say, we can easily see through the will of Ministry of Education, Culture, Sport, Science and Technology which has been eager to recover the exam-initiative once again from private schools to public schools as they were so.

In this way, the present education for younger generation has neglected the public school mission to study how they should be good members of our society in future, and set its goal to increase number of successors who could pass entrance examinations of well-known high schools or universities. Then, the process to improve the Japanese education system is thrown into confusion consistently to discuss how to make use of the know-how of leading cramming schools.

What a wretched state our educational system is in ! Then it is a matter of course that the vote rate of every national election has been low lately, the debating our constitutional amendment has been inactive, while the current government is distorting Japanese constitutional democracy. If the government would have a mind to make people stupid in this way, and do what some political bosses are eager to carry out, our peaceful future could not be realized. And instead of peaceful one, a hug military system which should appear in our society and do many cruelties in the world on the basis of their self-opinionated doctrines to keep the peace of Japan, which we have already had the bitter experience through World II since Meiji restoration; we had been struggling in the authoritarianism of Emperor system.