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Credentialism in East Asian Education: How it was Shaped and Current Effects

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Abstract

East Asian students are currently achieving great educational success. East Asians are regarded as having a natural talent for studying. This paper explores deeper on the history of credentialism in East Asia and its current effect on East Asian students. Credentialism in East Asia usually involves a strong focus on educational credentials. The roots of credentialism in East Asia can be traced back to ancient history. The Confucian values emphasize the significance of education, which began structuring a hierarchy of following the parents' educational beliefs. Changing access to education over the 1900s in East Asia motivated the development of modern educational credentials. However, this credentialism results in current challenges that the younger generation faces. The result is the dependent characteristics and mental health of the students, such as depression. This research guides us to our historical beliefs that affect East Asian society and includes a survey on how East Asian students think about current education and credentialism. This study suggests that East Asian education could change more, improve itself, and figure out students' true goals, not by their choice. This would allow students to pursue what they really want to, and they can enjoy their futures more.

Keywords: Confucian values; Credentialism; East Asian students; Education reform; Educational credentials; Mental health