

Letter to the Editor – Social Skills vs Academic Skills
by YE TSZ HIM 4D

Dear editor.

I am writing to express my views on Hong Kong students focusing solely on their studies but refusing to gain work experience or participate in volunteer activities during the summer, as mentioned in your column on the 12th of March. It is a common trend that many students are only concerned with their academic learning but neglect the development of social skills.

As we know, many students experience stress from their studies. In many Asian countries, they face loads of quizzes and projects every week, and they regard academic achievement as a success indicator. They are under immense pressure to succeed in public examinations. As a result, they often do not see the importance of personal growth and development.

On the other hand, they are not motivated to join other activities, such as voluntary service. After school, they feel tired physically and emotionally, so they lack motivation to participate in extra-curricular activities. Most importantly, it is common for them to think that doing something unrelated to academic study is a waste of time.

However, work experience is important for developing our skills and shaping our character. It can not only be enjoyable but also foster many valuable skills. During this process, you learn to be independent and caring towards others. It can also prepare you to face life's difficulties.

Moreover, it provides a good opportunity for students to gain hands-on work experience, allowing them to learn through direct participation rather than just reading books.

In conclusion, I hope students will not be so narrow-minded about education. They should broaden their perspectives by gaining work experience to develop skills such as social, communication and time-management skills.

Yours faithfully,
Chris