The Answer is University? I Think Not!

BIHS 2707 손주환

It is self-study time in a typical highschool in Korea. Almost all students are forced to stay at school to review and digest what they learned today. Some seats are empty, but they’re the ones who went to hagwons for easier comprehension in their classes. This is they typical scene of a night-time study in South Korean Highschools. It is then when someone raises the question “All this effort for what?” The answer is simple: University. It is every student’s dream to enter a world class university because they believe in the sole fact that a high degree of advanced education will guarantee a happy life. I believe that this is an illusion that is similar to the gold rush, which deceives students to follow the hierarchal system of the 21st century. Therefore even as a qualified highschool student in Korea, I would not choose to get advanced education as the system itself is designed only for the elite and university is not my life’s objective.

First, it is obvious that this kind of education system results in the hierarchy where the best students are always on the top. Universities in Korea are not standardized, therefore creates competition for students to get to the top. It seems as if you’re an excellent student, you should go and if you aren’t, you should go to a lower level university, nut that’s not the case. High salary positions in the Korean workforce require top university specs, to hire the best. On the other hand, lower level university students would have a dreadful time trying to find a job for a living. This is the Korean university system, where lower level university students are considered to be worthless by all. It’s a hierarchy that forces students who do not have proper goals to study instead of think, or else they’ll ruin their lives. In short, university education disgusts me as its structure and system is designed for the elite and gifted only.

Second, advanced education is not my primary life goal. The KSAT, a standardized test that is one of the most common ways a student gets into university, is what most of the students in highschools are after. They study and study as if they don’t reach their target scores, they’re going to die. The more important fact is that most of these typical and normal students don’t usually have a clear answer to what they want to be in the future and what their life goals are. However, when you ask them which university system leads students to limit their ability to numbers on a piece of paper, when in reality they could think about their lives in numerous directions. The term university binds their ability to think outside the box and puts them in a cage where their only option is to not even think, but study to prepare for a society where only high specs are welcome in the job market. To sum up, I would never go to university because it is not the center of my life; my dreams are.

 Most people say that education is the great equalizer, but if the term wants to live up to its name, it should consider what the person really wants. Korean universities however are doing the exact opposite of the term above. It is creating a society for the elite, where people without specs are considered miserable and where dreams are considered as an illusion that you only need to keep for yourself and nothing more. It has formed a hierarchy where they elite are qualified to control the people and dismantled people’s ability to think for themselves. In conclusion, I would never go to a Korean University as it is outrageous and disgusting to see social unfairness in front of my eyes, and destroys and tears apart my dreams and goals which are obviously not university.