Dr. Fawzia’s Corner

# What is the goal of education?

 When a company does a bad job, it will go bankrupt and close due to insufficient income. Customers judge the company’s performance. But when a public education system does a bad job, nothing happens to the system.

We often brag that we Asians excel in math, science and technology. In fact, our developing-nation-complex brainwashed us so well that we actually now tend to think that unless a child goes into those fields, he or she is a failure.

Yet, many of our scientists, technocrats and mathematicians do not necessarily succeed in their personal life. The rate of divorce in Taiwan rose sixfold from 1969 to 1999. China does not fare much better. In 2007 alone, the rate of divorce rose by 20%. Though we are still straggling behind in these numbers, a measly 0.79 per thousand people, we are fast catching up with the rest of the developed world ,and the country that holds number 1 in the world’s divorce rate: the USA with a whopping 4.95 per thousand. The American rate of divorce today for a first marriage remains at 50%, while it increases to 67% for a second marriage and rises to 74% for a third.

Why is divorce an important indicator of a successful personal and social life? Statistics show a positive correlation between high divorce rates and various crimes, from delinquency, rape and robbery all the way to murder. Moreover, the negative physical and psychological health effects of divorce last through as much as three generations.

 How many wives do you personally know who have never quarreled loudly with their husbands? How many children do you know who need psychological help? What then is a good index of successful education? The dollar amount of a 30-year-old’s income? The health status of a 40-year-old? The number of children looking after their grandparents? Is the role of education only limited to job preparation? Or does it claim to prepare our children for a successful personal life?

Is the education systems available in the modern world really helping our children prepare for a successful life? If not, then what is being done to change that?

Pax Academy is only a tiny little effort towards that direction. But at least we are trying to plant a seed. Character education, starting from PreK, is not only part of our curriculum, it is a major cornerstone of our mission and vision.