

ABSTRACT

As a summary and reexamination of other experts' often discrepant studies, this paper aims at both a theoretical and empirical study of the "Track System" in Taiwan's education. We concluded that Track system is both necessary and desirable from both an empirical and, especially, theoretical point of view. Against the popular notion that Track System is totally meaningless, we find that Track system, though not without some defects from the beginning, deteriorated and became a problem in Taiwan mainly after 1980. Before 1980, this system contributed a great deal to Taiwan's economy and society, and served as a educational choice for people who did not fit into higher education. Vocational education needs overall and radical reform today, however, it should never be discredited. Nevertheless, although Track system is desirable for both individual and society, the government should never force it on the student. Therefore, the artificial division between standard and vocational high school should be eventually abolished. The foremost goal of education should be the promotion of self-fulfillment of each individual in a complex society. Only an educational system equipped with all kinds of opportunities open to every student can satisfy this need. In the meantime, we

should also keep in mind that we used to emphasize too much on the intellectual aspect of education. This is the major reason why vocational education was despised and distorted. In the future, we should put much more emphasis on the value of talents other than pure intellect and systematically encourage the development of all kinds of talents in our educational institutions.