

General Condition of Taiwan Children Mental Arithmetic By Image of Abacus Education Development

In recent years, there is very significant change in mental arithmetic by image of abacus education in Taiwan. By adhering to the ideal of technologizing education and to the discussion points on different views from many academic arenas, the authority of Education has reduced and cancelled the abacus calculation class in commercial vocational schools and colleges that are the major institutions for traditional abacus calculation education. This has caused tremendous effect on abacus arithmetic education. Fortunately, there are still many education workers who are enthusiastic in mental arithmetic by image of abacus and they all still adhere to the ideal of glorifying this national skill and seeking for the finest. With this ideal, they all spare no effort to promote this skill in various places.

During the same period, abacus arithmetic groups have been developed prosperously in various places. Apart from the original organizations like Abacus arithmetic Promoting Committee of Taiwan Chamber of Commerce, Committee of Commercial Use of Abacus, Abacus Education Association, International Abacus Education Research Institute Branch etc., progressively there are establishment of Children's Abacus arithmetic Association, China Practical Abacus Arithmetic Academic Research Academic Society, China Abacus Arithmetic Academic Research Society, Taiwan Calculation Association etc. Till now there are already more than thirty abacus calculation organizations. Some functions of these organizations may overlap each other but they all based on promotion of children abacus arithmetic education, enhancement of skill level and initiation of children's intelligence as their common objectives. This has provided a strong stimulant to the abacus arithmetic education at the right time.

Presently the center of abacus arithmetic education in Taiwan lies in talent classes, childcare classes, class tutorial classes or professional tutorial classes in various places amongst people. These people's education centers will cope with the time beyond school hours to teach primary school and kindergarten children. Every week there will be about two classes and every time there will be ninety minutes of mental arithmetic by image of abacus. According to the unofficial statistics, all over Taiwan most of the child care and class tutorial classes offer mental arithmetic by image of abacus course. Amongst children of suitable age (from five to 12 years old), about 30 % and more have already learned abacus calculation and mental arithmetic. In addition, on the average, the learning life of each student is between one to one and a half years. Amongst all children talent classes (including art, calligraphy, English, mathematics, music and dancing etc.), abacus calculation and mental arithmetic has the most number of learning students and it is the most popular talent class.

What is the reason that even progressively there is no concern from the "Ministry of Education", mental arithmetic by image of abacus education in Taiwan still can have a new situation after surviving from an impasse? It can be analyzed from several aspects: (1) The prompt on the mind and intelligence of children by mental arithmetic by image of abacus education and its assistance in academic work has already won affirmation and support from parents. (2) Promotion organizations amongst people are spending tremendous and planned efforts in the various activities such as examination contest and teaching observation etc. (3) Proper utilization of broadcast media such as television interview, new program broadcast,

introduction by newspaper and magazine and performance announcement etc. that these can produce an effect of further instigation. Of course, the most important is in recent few years the top people who joined the teaching vocation are all young people with high academic qualification and they are knowledgeable people with enterprise management concept. Therefore, they can package the mental arithmetic by image of abacus education in such a way that its new appearance can conform to the trend of the age.

Of course mental arithmetic by image of abacus education in Taiwan is also facing the difficult state like Japan and Korea. For example: (1) Parents are doubtful how mental arithmetic by image of abacus can cope with the school teaching and that it will not contravene each other. (2) How it is possible to make the government feel about the importance of abacus arithmetic education so that it can be totally implemented in lower grade of primary school. (3) How to overcome the bottleneck in technique and method. (4) Problem of common shortage of academic or professional research and written work announcement. For these bottlenecks or difficulties, part of them would be required to be overcome.

Looking at the development of children mental arithmetic by image of abacus education in Taiwan from a general perspective, our point of view is still optimistic. Some larger scale mental arithmetic by image of abacus have already extended their tentacles to many corners in various places in the world such as USA, Canada, Australia, New Zealand, Singapore and Malaysia etc. Chinese or local people in these countries can accept the enterprise model of mental arithmetic by image of abacus development in Taiwan and very quickly solid sites have been established. We cannot help ourselves to cry out loud joyfully that the mental arithmetic by image of abacus education can walk out of a thorny path and cultivate a new world in overseas. Of course, we also hope to combine with the mature promotion experience in Mainland, Japan and Korea and abacus arithmetic elites in various places in the world and hand in hand we can establish a new century of mental arithmetic by image of abacus.

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2002.10.28