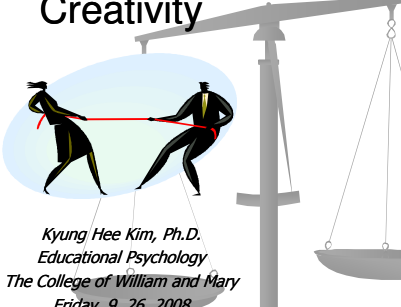



Critical issues in American & Asian Education: Diligence & Creativity




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Asian Values that Influence Asian Education: The 4 Principles of Confucianism




- *Emphasis of Education*
- *Family System*
- *Hierarchical Relationships*
- *Benevolence*

Emphasis of Education



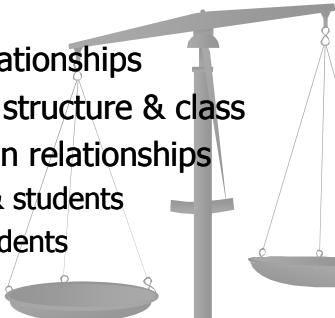
- *Rote learning & hard work*
- Leads to
 - Extreme competition
 - Devaluation of play
 - Work-play dichotomy

Family System



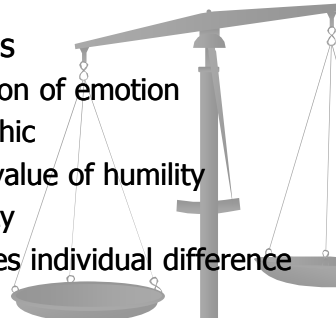
- Strict gender role expectations
- Rigid parent-child relationships
- Overemphasis on filial piety

Hierarchical Relationships



- Unequal relationships
- Rigid social structure & class
- Authoritarian relationships
 - Teachers & students
 - Among students

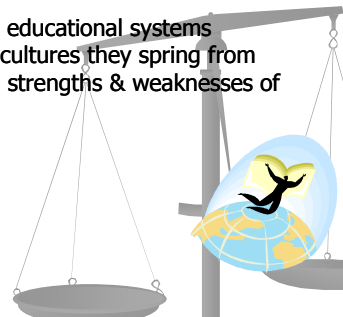
Benevolence



- Encourages
 - Suppression of emotion
 - Silence ethic
 - Extreme value of humility
 - Conformity
 - Stigmatizes individual difference

Educational systems grow from cultural expectations & ideologies

- Eastern & Western educational systems
 - Different as the cultures they spring from
 - Reflective of the strengths & weaknesses of those cultures



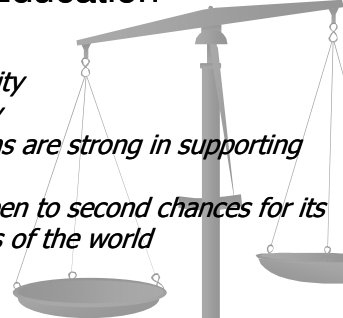
Strengths of Asian Education

*Relative Levels of Importance of Education
Funding
Family*




Strengths of American Education

*Valuing of Diversity
Valuing of inquiry
University systems are strong in supporting innovation
Culture that is open to second chances for its citizens & citizens of the world*



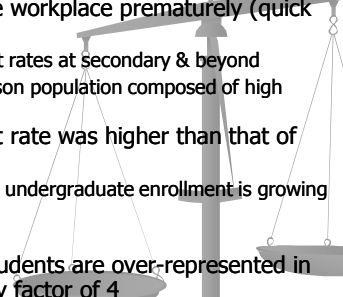
Relative Levels of Importance of Education Asia

- High regard for education contributed to the economic growth of Asian Societies
- Virtues attributed to the economic growth of the Asian 5 Dragons
 - Hong Kong, Japan, Singapore, Korea, & Taiwan
 - Skill acquisition, hard work, patience, perseverance, & education



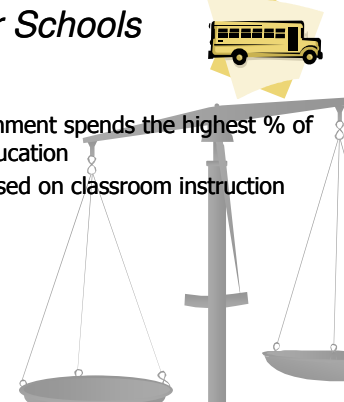
Relative Levels of Importance of Education The U.S.

- Students enter the workplace prematurely (quick pay-off)
 - Very high dropout rates at secondary & beyond
 - + 30 % of the prison population composed of high school dropouts
- College enrollment rate was higher than that of whites
 - In U of CAs: Asian undergraduate enrollment is growing the fastest
 - school dropouts
- Asian-American students are over-represented in gifted programs by factor of 4



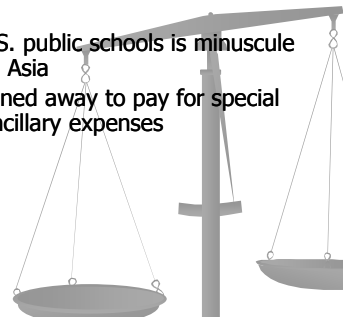
Funding for Schools

- Asia
 - Korean government spends the highest % of its GDP on education
 - Money is focused on classroom instruction




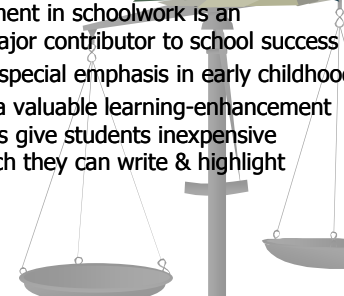
Funding for Schools

- The U.S.
 - Funding for U.S. public schools is minuscule compared with Asia
 - Money is siphoned away to pay for special education & ancillary expenses




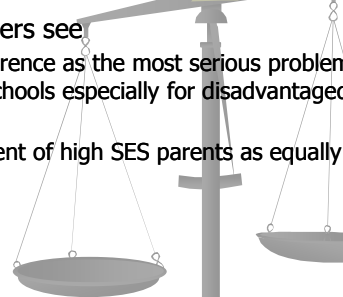
Family Support

- Asia
 - Parental involvement in schoolwork is an acknowledged major contributor to school success
 - Education ethic--special emphasis in early childhood
 - As homework is a valuable learning-enhancement activity----Schools give students inexpensive textbooks in which they can write & highlight

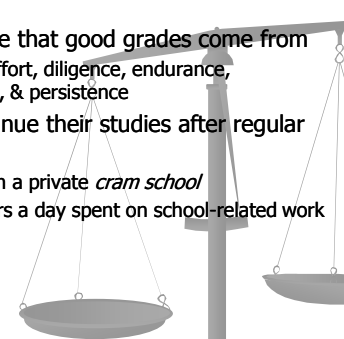
Family Support

- The U.S.
 - American teachers see
 - parental indifference as the most serious problem facing public schools especially for disadvantaged students
 - Over-involvement of high SES parents as equally problematic


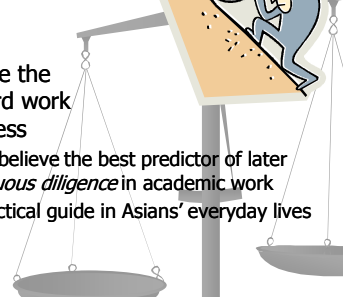
Belief in Effort

- Asia
 - parents believe that good grades come from
 - Hard work, effort, diligence, endurance, perseverance, & persistence
 - Students continue their studies after regular school hours
 - By enrolling in a private *cram school*
 - Up to 16 hours a day spent on school-related work



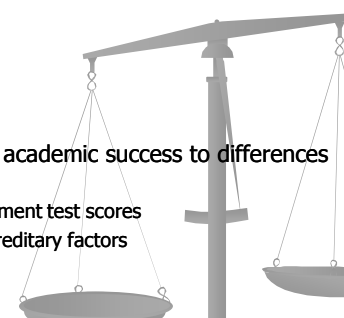
Belief in Effort

- Asia
 - Parents emphasize the importance of hard work to academic success
 - Japanese people believe the best predictor of later success is *continuous diligence* in academic work
 - Hard work: A practical guide in Asians' everyday lives

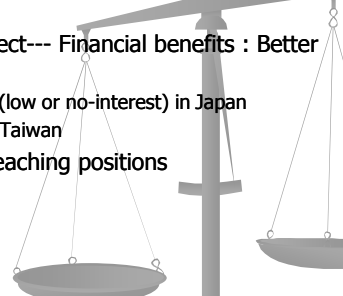
Belief in Effort

- The U.S.
 - Parents attribute academic success to differences in native ability
 - Ability & achievement test scores
 - Beliefs about Hereditary factors



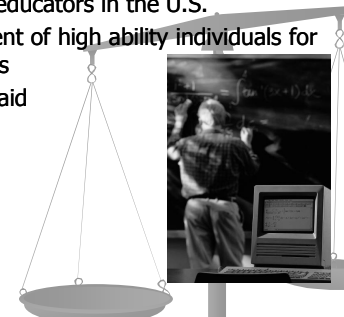
Respecting Teachers

- Asia
 - Addressed as *sensei, master, seonsangnim*. Highest forms of respect
 - Extension of respect--- Financial benefits : Better pay & incentives
 - Mortgage breaks (low or no-interest) in Japan
 - No income tax in Taiwan
 - Competition for teaching positions



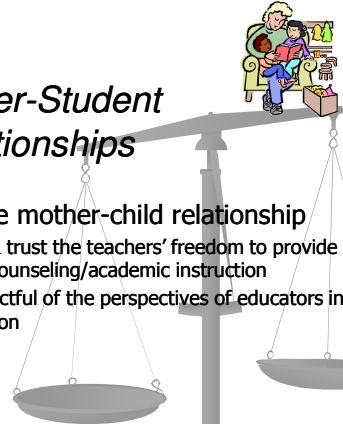
Respecting Teachers

- The U.S.
 - Undervaluing of educators in the U.S.
 - Lack of recruitment of high ability individuals for teaching positions
 - Teachers underpaid



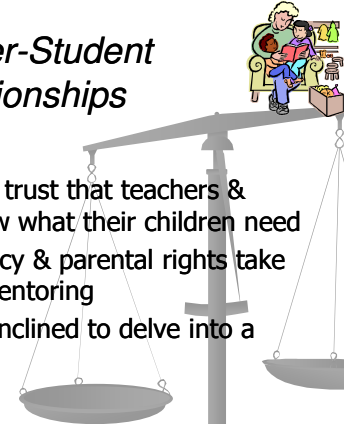
Teacher-Student Relationships

- Asia
 - Extension of the mother-child relationship
 - Parents respect & trust the teachers' freedom to provide moral guidance/counseling/academic instruction
 - Parents are respectful of the perspectives of educators in children's education



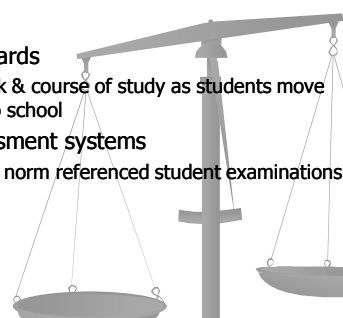
Teacher-Student Relationships

- The U.S.
 - Parents do not trust that teachers & educators know what their children need
 - Student's privacy & parental rights take priority over mentoring
 - Teachers less inclined to delve into a student's life



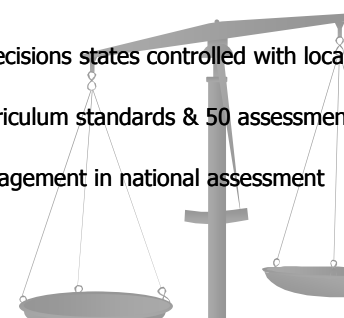
Centralized & Local School Governance

- Asia
 - National standards
 - Same textbook & course of study as students move from school to school
 - National assessment systems
 - Competitive & norm referenced student examinations




Centralized & Local School Governance

- The U.S.
 - Educational decisions states controlled with local variation
 - 50 sets of curriculum standards & 50 assessment systems
 - Voluntary engagement in national assessment systems
 - NAEP
 - AP
 - IB




But!



- Neither educational system deliberately promotes creative learning.

Pioneer of infusing creative Learning in American Education

- Creativity is a vital component
 - Rote memorization deemphasized
 - higher-order thinking skills developed
- Competitions designed for enhancing creative thinking
 - Future Problem Solving program
 - Odyssey of the Mind
- Multiple criteria for gifted program that includes
 - Creativity



Dr. Torrance

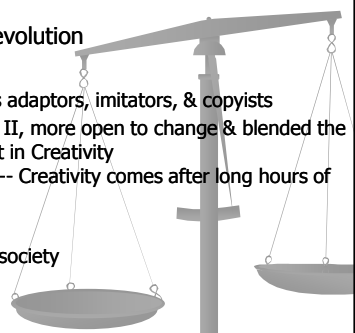
Asian Education & No Creativity

- Hierarchical society, teacher-centered, & total class instruction
 - Students must listen without speaking to teachers & adults
 - Repeat, memorize & remember
 - Exam hell
 - No opportunity
 - To argue, discuss, & suggest



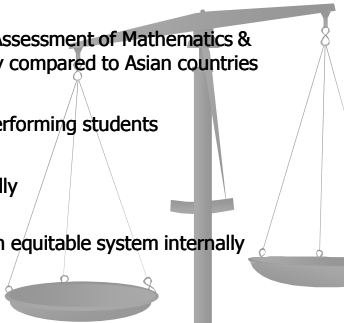
Changes in History in Asian countries Impacted on Creativity differentially

- China
 - Maoist Cultural Revolution
- Japan
 - Used to be known as adaptors, imitators, & copyists
 - Since the World War II, more open to change & blended the ideals of West & East in Creativity
 - But, also believed-- Creativity comes after long hours of practice
- Korea
 - The most Confucian society



The U.S. Today

- Low performance
 - On International Assessment of Mathematics & Science especially compared to Asian countries
- NCLB
 - Focuses on low performing students
- In a dilemma
 - To compete globally at the same time
 - To try to create an equitable system internally



Conclusion

Improving education: Learning from Each Other

