



## **Schemes for Improving Abacus Education**

### **I. Necessity of Improving Abacus Education**

Originated in ancient China and later centered on East Asian, the abacus gradually developed into one part of worldwide traditional cultures. As an important calculation instrument, it was regarded as a required course since the beginning of human being education such as reading.

With its beads, the abacus is helpful to explore and improve human intelligence, and is worthy of education and practicality.

However, nowadays popularization education on abacus is in crisis due to the development of computers. Increasing computer advisements and increasing number of persons who insist on abacus education useless cause people to spend less time in abacus and more in computers. In addition, schools, various levels of educational agencies and enterprises consume much in computers. The serious result is that many pupils do not know how to calculate with simple method of plus and minus, and waste time in playing computer – based instead. The lack of guidance in abacus skills results in naturally disappearing of abacus test in schools. At present, players in international abacus conference are those who participated in the former conference, and then accept some training. For few students who have such an opportunity to be trained, they are from employees in related enterprises or from teachers' families. Calculators and computers produce a negative effect on abacus development education, but the main reasons suspending and even shrinking abacus education are because of the lack of efforts and cooperation among abacus education associations.

Therefore, in order to improve current situation and to promote the development of abacus education, we suggest that abacus associations, as the main administration body of abacus development, vigorously advertise and hold mental arithmetic competition that can change the attitude of the society.

### **2. Improving Schemes to the Above Problems**

The problems and related measures differ from various countries and researchers. So, firstly we claim that the following suggestions are based on the situation of Korea.

1 .The location of abacus conference is different from that of sports, audience cannot observe closely each of players, and there is no field pickup that is popular in broadcasting and TV. Thus, without trenchant advisement on abacus education, people show no interest, and the abacus conference becomes an unattended stage.

Many people have not learnt about abacus skills, and they have no idea about its necessity. Therefore, it is necessary to make abacus conference well known by absorbing the advantage of field pickup in sports and games. Thus, while watching video display on abacus

competition, people can learn more about inside information of mental arithmetic and further realize its inevitability.

2. The problems in the past abacus competition were time constraint and long -term preparation, and it was impossible to provide audiences visible subjects, thus the audiences did not regard abacus competition as interesting and worthy of projecting. Therefore, on the one side, it is quite necessary to design some questions that are easy to understand and can reflect players' real ability, and to demonstrate effectively. On the other side, it is necessary for the judges to cooperate with TV reporters before com- petition so as to optimize demonstration effect.

3 .In the past, compared with other kinds' players, even the champions received relatively few prizes, low treatment and unattractive reputation, and they had no privilege in employment and entrance examination. The result was that people were no longer interested in abacus. As an adviser, I strongly feel guilty. Therefore, we should award the champions " Celebrity Skill Medals " in intra -and -international competitions. We should exhibiting big photos of those winners in various periods and offer some necessary introduction, thus make those winners happiness. In addition, we should recommend and help them in employment and entrance examination.

4. We should actively hold " Celebrity Competitions " between domestic champions and alien champions, and perform related abacus activities to develop our brains and promote more intelligence potentials. Meanwhile, we should deliver the real message of celebrities and their ability to the audiences via TV as we rebroadcast sports and games. Only by this means can more people realize the effect and necessity of abacus and mental arithmetic education. Therefore, it is necessary to hold "Celebrity Competitions".

5. While holding skill competitions, we can allow computers and calculators appear in the actual locale to show and confirm the superiority of abacus and mental arithmetic, to enable it to be easily accepted in school education, and to enable students to be willing to learn.

### **3. Main points and Proposals**

1. Abacus education and arithmetic education are required basic educations to develop human intelligence and mental ability.

2. Nowadays, the appearance and popularization of computers make abacus education shrink and go into crisis.

3 .To hold a competition between computers and abacus so that people can realize the superiority and necessity of abacus.

4 .To make abacus competition as interesting as sports via TV rebroadcast, thus audiences can learn more about real abacus competitions.

5 .To award the best players across and within nations "Celebrity Skill Medals" so that they have a sense of honor.

6 .To perform "Celebrity Competitions", and to give publicity to the value and necessity of abacus and mental arithmetic education.

**Courtesy:**

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