A Single Flower Does Not Make Spring: Leading for Educational Equity and Diversity

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Hong Kong is one of the most unequal societies in the world in terms of wealth distribution. The top 1% of the richest Hongkongers possess more than half of the entire wealth in the territory while the bottom 90% of the population are left to share only 25% of the wealth. The shocking income disparity has resulted in both unequal distribution of educational resources and distortion of educational purposes. Schooling becomes a fierce competition in a narrow range of knowledge and skills favoured by the few high-rewarding jobs at the top of the steep occupational pyramid. Children in poverty are severely disadvantaged in this race and students’ authentic and diverse talents are sacrificed. How can school leadership be steered toward more equal education? This workshop will first reconceptualise educational equality, not as uniformity, but as developing and respecting diverse talents and work that are needed to sustain society. Then school leaders will be invited to examine multiple ways of resource distribution to allow children of all family backgrounds an equal chance to get prepared for their personal best future. Innovative school cases will be shared to lend inspirations for action.

ABOUT THE FACILITATOR

Dr. Dan Wang is an Associate Professor at the Faculty of Education in the University of Hong Kong. She is trained in the discipline of Sociology of Education. Her research focuses on educational inequality and social justice issues in China with special interests on the rural-urban divide, class reproduction, and teachers’ work and professional development. She is the author of the book “The Demoralisation of Teachers: Crisis in a Rural School in China”. She is concerned with the drastically expanding inequality both locally and globally and has long been committed to improving the wellbeing of children and families from disadvantaged backgrounds.

Target Participants: Principals, Vice-principals, Assistant Principals and other School Leaders in local kindergartens, primary and secondary schools
Venue: Main Campus of The University of Hong Kong
Medium of Instruction: English
Quota: 25 Participants
Fee: HK$700/Participant

Registration: www.alite.edu.hku.hk