

**LET US IMPROVE EDUCATIONAL WORK IN ORDER TO PRODUCE
ABLE CADRES OF THE NATION**

A Talk to the Lecturers of the Faculty of Economics of Kim Il Sung University
June 17, 1966

Recently I met many of the people who, after graduation from Kim Il Sung University, are working in Party, administrative or economic organizations or in mass media or in some other fields. Most of them were working efficiently at the revolutionary posts to which they were appointed by the Party, but some of them were not good at their work. The fact that these graduates are not effective at their jobs means that the university has failed to give them a good education in keeping with the needs of the times. So I have long been wanting to have a discussion with instructors of the university and exchange opinions with them about the matter of training cadres. When I came to this university in the great leader's company last April, I intended to discuss this matter but I was unable to do so because many hours were spent on discussing the construction of university buildings. Producing many able cadres is the pressing need of our revolution and construction. Our revolution and construction are now advancing at a very fast tempo, and the struggle to carry out the historic task of socialist industrialization is vigorously under way. When socialist industrialization has been realized, the level of technology in the country will rise considerably. This will raise many complex new problems that need to be solved in order to allow for technological progress and for the proper management of the economy. The rapidly developing revolution together with construction and the task of finding successful solutions to these problems require the training of a large number of able workers.

Kim Il Sung University is a cadre-training centre for the education of the backbone of Party and state officials as well as of top-level academics, scientists and workers in the sphere of culture. It is also a major centre for the development of science and technology in our country. The quality of education at this university determines the quality of the cadres of our nation and the level of the development of science and technology in our country.

In view of the very important role of this university in the training of our cadres and in the development of science and technology, the great leader has always paid special attention to the work of the university and showed great consideration to its work. On April 18, 1963 and on many other occasions over the recent years he has given very important directions on how to develop the work of the university and even adopted sweeping measures to place the university directly under the control of the Cabinet.

All the teaching staff of Kim Il Sung University must, true to the great leader's instructions, improve educational work in conformity

with the needs of the times and produce able cadres of our nation in greater numbers.

The most important matter in improving education is to incorporate the concept of Juche into education thoroughly.

By incorporating Juche into education I mean subordinating educational work completely to the interests of the Korean revolution and training the students to be communist revolutionaries who are unfailingly loyal to the Party and the leader. Equipping students with our Party's revolutionary thoughts and teaching them disciplines and technical skills needed for the revolution and construction are the revolutionary essence of Juche education.

Establishing Juche in education is a fundamental principle to which we must always adhere in educational work. It is only when Juche is thoroughly incorporated into education that students can be trained to be genuine revolutionaries capable of contributing to the Korean revolution and that our education can be genuine education serving the revolutionary cause of the working class.

The mission and task of our education is to produce able people who work productively for the Korean revolution and struggle to build socialism and communism in our country. Without establishing Juche, it would be impossible for the educational sector to fulfil its mission and task.

But many instances of Juche being disregarded in university education are evident.

An attempt in the field of economics to apply Marx's Capital mechanically to the present situation is such an instance. The textbook on political economy still retains many remnants of dogmatism. The textbook on political economy now in use does not give me a clear idea of our situation however hard I may study it, nor does it elucidate the theory of socialist economics clearly. It is true that the textbook incorporates a great deal of the leader's economic thoughts and theory, but it is not yet consistent with our Party's ideas.

A philosophical attempt to solve the problems of proletarian dictatorship and the transitional period in accordance with the propositions of Marxist-Leninist classics is also an instance that shows that the concept of Juche has not been applied. The problems of proletarian dictatorship and the transitional period are now posed as a serious theoretical and practical matter, but no correct solution has yet been found because many of those dealing with these problems are trying to find a solution based solely on the classical propositions. The problem of where the demarcation line of the transitional period is located can be solved only when the inquiry starts from our specific situation.

The dogmatic and sycophantic practices revealed in both the educational and the theoretical fields are due to the fact that the work of incorporating Juche in these fields is being undertaken in a perfunctory and conservative manner.

From now onwards, the educators in the field of social sciences must give their students a deep understanding of the essence, validity and

vitality of the great leader's Juche idea and our Party's policies. They must also make a profound theoretical analysis of the unique historical experience of the socialist revolution and of the building of socialism and teach the students vividly in the context of our own situation.

The educators in the field of natural sciences must teach their students specialized disciplines and technology needed for transforming nature and developing technology in our country. Training scientists and specialists needed for the transformation of nature and for the development of technology in our country is the major task of education in the field of natural sciences. Kim Il Sung University must revise mathematics, physics, chemistry, biology and other subjects of natural sciences completely in accordance with our Party's political needs and the latest trend in science and technology. This will enable you to educate able scientists and specialists and to develop science and technology quickly in our country.

You must undertake the work of incorporating Juche into education boldly and in a revolutionary manner. It would not do if you tried to retain the outmoded framework and simply supplement one chapter or two or one section or two to textbooks or change individual illustrations.

A cinematic revolution is now taking place in the field of literature and art, and this has not been a spontaneous occurrence. Formerly, the need to incorporate Juche into the cinema was emphasized, but some officials tried to incorporate Juche by making a minor change in the outmoded framework. Therefore, the Party saw to it that the outmoded framework was completely destroyed and that a new cinematic art that meets the needs of our period and caters to the thoughts and feelings of our people was created.

As you are guided by the great leader's Juche idea and his revolutionary theory, you will be able to incorporate Juche into education perfectly only if you make efforts. In the field of political economy, for instance, you have the great ideological and theoretical riches, particularly the line of building an independent national economy, the Taean work system¹⁰ and the Theses on the Socialist Rural Question¹¹, which have been evolved by the leader. If you rely thoroughly on his great economic thoughts and theories, you will be fully able to compile a Juche-orientated socialist political economy which is based on the mass line. By the Juche-orientated socialist political economy based on the mass line I mean a socialist political economy which is founded on our people's independent position and their creative role in the construction of the socialist economy. That part of political economy which deals with capitalism can be clear about the working-class viewpoint only when it is substantiated by the leader's revolutionary theory on modern imperialism. In short, only when you base yourselves on his revolutionary thoughts and theories can you compile a textbook on political economy capable of meeting the requirements of the times and the revolution and embody our Party's line and policy thoroughly in teaching

social sciences.

Methodology for finding solutions to theoretical and practical questions can also be derived on the basis of the great leader's Juche idea; no perfect methodology can be found from the theories of the classical predecessors. The Juche idea, the leader's revolutionary concept, can provide the methodology that can give comprehensive answers to all problems arising in scientific understanding. Such a revolutionary methodology alone can provide answers to all the theoretical and practical problems arising in the revolution and construction. It is high time we examined all thoughts and theories of the previous ages in light of the leader's revolutionary concept, the Juche idea.

The next important matter in improving education work is to steadily improve teaching methods.

Without improving teaching methods, it would be impossible to convey to students the essence of the contents being taught or to succeed in the cause of educating workers, no matter how well the contents of the educational material are compiled.

A university has many things to teach its students, but time is limited. How effectively the university gives the students the maximum amount of knowledge possible in a limited time is not merely a practical matter, but a fundamental matter which affects the attainment of the goals of education. If it is to teach the students as much as possible in a limited time, the university must radically improve teaching methods.

The heuristic method must have priority on being adopted on a full scale.

In order to adopt this method, it is necessary to eliminate, without hesitation, the method of instructors simply dictating their lectures to the students. Lectures were dictated to the students formerly, and it seems that things are much the same until now. If lectures are dictated to the students from beginning to end, the purpose of lectures cannot be attained.

Lectures should not be given by using the method of enumerating various phenomena but by using the method of building up various facts for a given argument so as to give students a correct understanding of the system of knowledge and the principles involved. Lectures must also be suited to the level of the students. There are many students who came after being discharged from the army and those who came after working on jobs, so lectures should be given in a manner which awakens them intellectually by degrees, to suit their level of comprehension and knowledge. If lectures are given in a manner of cramming knowledge into their heads in disregard for their comprehensive and intellectual levels, the students may not digest what is being taught.

Lecture is an art. Lecturers need to acquire the art of skilful lecturing. Such an art of lecturing can attract the students' attention and encourage them to try their best to learn as much as possible and lead them to develop their thinking capability. Lecturers must not tell their students to learn by rote what is being taught, but give them

various forms of home work that requires them to read many books and thus develop their ability to analyze problems, judge and reason. The university must create a movement for the improvement of teaching methods with the goal that students are able to digest within the hour all that is being taught.

Theoretical education and practical training must be combined closely.

Combining education with productive labour, and theory with practice is our Party's consistent educational policy.

If practical training is given at random without being theoretically systematized, or if it is conducted in a manner of merely showing production processes to the students without letting them apply their knowledge to practice, it will be impossible to combine theoretical education truly with practical training. The university must not permit the omission of practical training on the excuse that they are under pressure to squeeze the curriculum into the allotted time nor connive to neglect the practical training of students. Practical training is not a process that can be omitted at one's own discretion. It is an indispensable process of education for enabling the students to acquire a working knowledge, and as such it is obligatory. The university must systematize practical training into pedagogical regulations so that the students consolidate their knowledge by seeing things, experiencing them and finding solution to problems in real life situations and thus develop their ability to apply their knowledge. Students should be given many assignments to write to increase their written expression capability. The students in social sciences must acquire the ability to write as a criterion to graduate. A man who does not know how to write cannot claim to have graduated from the university. University graduates must without exception know how to write.

Both in the theoretical field and in the field of literature and art there are not many people who are good at writing. People who majored in political economy or in philosophy do not write a theoretical treatise properly, and people who have been trained in language and literature do not write a literary piece of any credit. People who are specialized in social sciences must acquire the ability to write. Only then can they be successful in political work or in scientific and theoretical activities. In particular, the officials who are working in Party organs, administrative and economic establishments after graduating from the university must be able to write their own reports and document their own work experiences.

In order to develop the students' ability to write it is necessary to give them the task of writing essays on the subjects they specialize in as well as assigning graduation theses all of which is carefully supervised.

Another important issue involved in improving education is to give students proper political and moral education.

Intellectual education and political education are tied together, and a lecturer must be an intellectual educator and at the same time a political educator. But some lecturers neglect the political education

of students in the belief that they are responsible only for their intellectual education. Consequently, the tendency to separate intellectual education from political education has not been rectified. If no attention is paid to their political education, our university students may reveal non-working-class and immoral conduct, as is the case with those in certain socialist countries. If such a state of affairs occurs, they cannot take over the revolutionary cause nor can they preserve the gains of the socialist revolution. Lecturers must combine intellectual and political education closely and give their students an effective political education.

The basic principle of political education for the students is to establish the Party's ideological system thoroughly among them. It can be said that the current educational programme for the university has been drawn up in such a way as to establish the Party's ideological system among the students. The university authorities must, therefore, strongly demand the implementation of the educational programme and ensure that the students absorb the Party's ideological system thoroughly. In addition, the students' daily routine should be made an educational process of absorbing the Party's ideological system.

One thing that must not be overlooked in education is to give the students a solid communist moral education. Nowadays, many of the students are ill-mannered, not even knowing where to stand or where to sit down. If students do not acquire communist moral qualities while at university, they cannot conduct themselves properly when they have taken jobs, nor can they perform their role as cadres of the nation.

The university must pay sharp attention to the political and moral education of the students and train them to be genuine revolutionaries who have acquired the Party's ideological system and all the communist moral qualities.

Raising lecturers' qualifications is important in improving educational work. It can be said that the quality of education is decided by lecturers' qualifications. If their qualifications are low, it will be impossible to ensure quality in ideological and scientific education at the level required by the Party, no matter how accurately the curriculum has been drawn up.

University lecturers must be well prepared politically and ideologically as well as scientifically and theoretically. In particular, the lecturers of Kim Il Sung University, the centre for the training of national cadres and the highest temple of scientific pursuits, must be better qualified than all lecturers working elsewhere. Lecturers of this university must work hard to equip themselves firmly with the great leader's revolutionary thoughts and the Party's policies and master the science and skills involved in their area of study.

In order to raise their qualifications, the lecturers must put all their efforts into preparing their lectures. They must be thoroughly prepared for their lectures by reading a variety of reference books and visiting the field frequently before they give lectures, and in the course of this they must improve their qualifications.

It would be inconceivable for university lecturers to improve their qualifications separate from scientific research. They must, without exception, participate in scientific research and find solutions to the scientific and theoretical problems arising in their studies as well as the scientific and technological problems arising in different sectors of the national economy at the moment. Only then will they be able to raise the level of their qualifications.

In order to heighten their qualifications lecturers must study vigorously. They must study the great leader's works and the Party's policies which are their embodiment. It is also important to study in depth and breadth in order to acquire the knowledge of science and technology in their field. We cannot say that all the lecturers will study voluntarily. Faculties and departments must establish strict academic discipline among lecturers and tighten up the control of their study.

Lecturers must put all their efforts into their lectures, scientific research, and study as an integral whole, without ignoring any aspect of them.

Lecturers themselves must study hard and also guide their students to do the same. They must make a stronger demand on the study of their students and thus make the university the literal temple of learning.

Lecturers must make strenuous efforts to train themselves to be revolutionaries.

Educating work is an important revolutionary undertaking for the training of cadres. Lecturers are glorious revolutionaries who train revolutionary workers to take over and carry forward with the revolution and construction. It is only when lecturers themselves become genuine communist revolutionaries first that they can train their students to be communist revolutionaries with success.

Making lecturers genuine communist revolutionaries is our Party's consistent policy. In some countries intellectuals are now being ostracized indiscriminately simply because they came from the propertied class, whereas in some other countries they are being made complete liberals without being given political education. Ostracizing them indiscriminately is the tendency of factionalism; cancelling their revolutionary education is an expression of bourgeois liberalism. Our Party is opposed to these Right and Left deviations and adheres to the revolutionary principle of reforming them into communist revolutionaries who serve the working class better.

The Party organizations of the university must equip the lecturers with the great leader's revolutionary thoughts and give them constant revolutionary training through organizational life and educational practice so that they root out individualism, selfishness, liberalism, fame-seeking and other remnants of outmoded ideas and so that they work with all devotion to the Party and the revolution. In order to improve educational work, it is necessary to enhance the administration of education.

To this end, it is important to increase the role of faculties. The faculty is a major unit of educational administration which organizes

and directs education and scientific research. It is duty bound to supervise, direct and control educational work, the work of raising qualifications and improving scientific research in a unified manner. It is especially important for Kim Il Sung University to enhance the role of its faculties. The scale of the faculties of this university is very large from the point of view of the composition of departments, the size of enrollment of students and the scope of teaching specialists. The Faculty of Economics, for instance, is as large as an independent college. In view of the importance of the position of the faculties and their duties, the leader has instructed that authoritative scientists should be appointed as deans.

University faculties are currently, however, acting merely as a link between higher and lower units of education.

Faculties must, acting as masters of educational administration, organize work in such a way as to free lecturers from miscellaneous paper work and enable them to concentrate their efforts on raising the scientific and theoretical level of education. In particular, the faculties must formulate educational programmes to meet the political requirements of the Party policy and the aim of expert training. They must draw up curricula with care. Too frequent revision of the curricula will hamper the systematic character of education. In order to draw up good curricula it is necessary to make a deep study of the Party's requirements, analyze the activities of graduates and listen to the opinions of many people.

After defining correct educational programmes faculties must direct and control their implementation strictly. They must direct and control properly the whole process of education, ranging from the lecturers' preparations for lectures to the digestion of their lectures by the students. There must be supervision so that the contents of educational programmes are correctly taught. They must prevent lax practices such as changing curricula without permission or violating the sequence with which material is taught.

The department is the basic academic unit which supervises education and scientific research. Enhancing the department's sense of responsibility and its role is the way to raise the lecturers' qualifications, step up scientific research work and raise the level of pedagogical quality. The faculties must improve work with their departments and enhance their role in every possible way.

This year Kim Il Sung University will mark the 20th anniversary of its foundation. During this period it has produced a large number of national cadres and accumulated valuable experience in implementing the Party's educational policy. It has also strengthened the ranks of lecturers with workers who are loyal to the Party and they have constructed new modern university buildings.

The university must raise the lecturers' scientific and theoretical expertise to that of the world standard and improve the education quality further: all of this can be done on the solid foundations that have been laid. In this way the voice of Kim Il Sung University will have a strong influence on the academic circles of the world and the university will be one of the most renowned universities in the world.

I strongly believe that all the teaching staff of Kim Il Sung University will, true to the Party's educational policy, meet the Party's expectations by improving academic work quickly and by producing an increased number of able national cadres capable of contributing to our revolution.

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