**The True Hearts of the *Kosen* Students**

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C: Hi, my name is Mikio.

A: My name is Keisuke.

B: And I am Soichiro.

A: Have you ever thought about the reason why there are so many people who have negative ways of thinking of the world? In fact, according to a book of psychology, which I have read before, 77 percent of self-talk is negative talk. It is said that negative ways of thinking is congenitally installed in our brain to protect ourselves. So it is natural for us to think negatively.

C: Have you ever experienced hearing *Kosen* students talking about their school life in a negative way? For example, we often hear the following conversations in our *Kosen*.

〔Recess time in school〕

A: “Hey Soichiro! I heard that one of my friends from my junior high school has got a girlfriend!”

B: “Really? I’m jealous.”

A: “Me too.”

C: “After all, we are just *Kosen* students. It has nothing to do with us.”

A, B, C: “Yes… unfortunately, we are *Kosen* students...”

〔Another day〕

A: “How is your Japanese exam?”

B: “It’s so bad. How about you?”

A, C: “Me, too.”

B: “You know, we are just *Kosen* students!!”

A, B, C: “Oh! We are *Kosen* students!”

B: Why do *Kosen* students keep saying, “After all, we are just *Kosen* students!!” It sounds really negatively, and one question came up to our minds. Are *Kosen* students really satisfied with their school life? We conducted a questionnaire survey to *Nara Kosen* students from the 1st to the 3rd graders to find out whether or not they are satisfied with their school life.

A: The results obtained from the survey were statistically analyzed. As a result, we found some very interesting features of their degree of satisfaction.

C: Look at this figure. Contrary to what we had expected, 76 percent of the students answered that they were satisfied with their school life. Then, what part of their *Kosen* life satisfies those people? Among those, 36 percent of the students are satisfied with liberal atmosphere of the school.

A: What does liberal atmosphere mean? First, we can freely use smart phones and laptops in the school. Most high school students are not allowed to bring those devices to schools. If *Kosen’s* regulations prohibit us from using those electrical devices in school, it might decrease the interaction among us.

C: Second, we can choose whether we dye our hair and whether we wear pierced earrings. So, we can dress up ourselves with whatever we want. Third, we are not told annoyingly from our teachers more than necessarily. Finally, we have plenty of time to spare, because we don’t have college entrance examination. In other words, although we are the same age of high school students, we spend our school life just like college students.

A: From this result, we can conclude that the reason we often say negatively about our *Kosen* life is just repeating what others are saying. In a psychological term, this is called “Mirroring Phenomenon.” They just follow or repeat what others are saying just like a mirror. If someone speaks ill of *Kosen* life, others may follow him to protect themselves. As a result, we often hear negative talk about school life. Now we understand why *Kosen* students always talk negatively about their school life. This is the end of our presentation, thank you very much for…

C: Wait! Wait! How about those who are NOT satisfied with *Kosen* life? 24 percent of the students said that they were not satisfied. Don’t you have any comments on that?

A: Oh, I am sorry. I’ve already been satisfied with our presentation.

B: Then, I’ll tell you the reasons why they are NOT satisfied with their school life? In the remaining 24 percent, most of the students claimed that they are too busy in doing homework, writing reports and studying. In addition, they are afraid of repeating another school year. Basically, it is said *Kosen* students used to be good students at their junior high schools. However, why do such students worry about studying?

C: We guess one of the reasons is that it is too difficult for us to understand textbooks used in *Kosen*. Look at this, for example. This question is from a textbook of physics. What do you think the answer is? We are often disappointed to see the answer like this. This is from the answer book of the textbook. This will lead to a drop in our motivation toward studying.

B: In order to see the results in more detail, we picked up the classes whose satisfactory rates were less than 70 percent. There are 5 classes; 2 classes from the 2nd grade, and the other 3 are from the 3rd grade.

C: Have a look at this graph. This graph shows the satisfaction rates in those 5 classes. We spent a lot of time staring at this graph and the features of these 5 classes. Finally, we found one thing in common among those 5 classes. That is, they are the classes with a very small number of girls. Let’s look at this. Surprisingly, as you can see, in those classes, the number of girls is less than 5.

A: From this fact, we can assume that if the number of the female students in a class is low, students in such classes tend to think that they are NOT satisfied with the school life. To see if the number of the female students correlate with students’ satisfaction, let’s take a look at the reason why they are not satisfied with *Kosen* life.

B: Look at these graphs. Contrary to our expectation, the biggest reason of their dissatisfaction in these 5 classes is also being busy with homework, writing report and studying, not the small number of female students.

C: Why do they feel busy in studying?

B: That’s a good question. We assume that teachers tend to give a lot of assignments to those classes.

C: How does it connect to the number of girls?

B: I think if there are many female students in a class, teachers suddenly become kind and try not to give lots of homework. Well, we need to do some more research to say so. Unfortunately, we can’t say anything about this from the obtained data.

A: OK, now let’s summarize our findings! To conclude, although we often hear that *Kosen* students don’t like their school life so much, what we hear is not true intention in most cases, since more than 75 percent of the students answered they are satisfied with their school life.

C: In addition, the percentage of dissatisfaction in classes with fewer female students is higher than that of the classes with more female students. From this, we assumed that students’ satisfaction of their school life is correlated with the number of female students in a class, but the most of unhappy students said they were not satisfied because of the burden of studying, not the number of the girls.

A: However, still one question remains. That is the possibility of the change of teachers’ attitudes according to the number of female students in a class. And it may indirectly affect the students’ degree of satisfaction just like this causal relation diagram.

B: We will leave this as our further research, and we hope we can show the results in the next presentation contest. Anyway, we are satisfied with the results of more than 75 percent of satisfaction. Thank you very much for your listening. See you next year!