The Importance Role of the Tutorial System in Higher Education: Based on a Student Attitude Survey

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The Important Role of the Tutorial System in Higher Education
Based on a Student Attitude Survey

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Introduction

“Tutorial system” is introduced as a big pillar of student support to commensurate to the first annual education, tutoring, and various needs of a student in most of the private universities. The two phrases “the university where taking care of is good” and “the distance between the student and the teacher is close” are being considered overdone expressions in an open campus in many universities for new student securement by a low birthrate.

Even if the system is not as such a tutor system conducted by a university, the seminar class teacher is assigned the role of a tutor. After all, it can be assumed that any theoretical arrangement is not accomplished with a tutor, and it can be clearly stated that only practice is precedent.

This system has started at Oxford University in 13th century and its main purpose was moral education. It has changed to education for academic study in 19th century, but after that the merit of moral education is being recognized once again.

From the time it was introduced in the medical education, tutorial education is called the problem solving–type learning (PBL: problem-based learning). It has been started in Western Universities in 1960’s\(^1\). It is the learning pattern that settles the problem found by a learner and allows him/her to acquire the way and process\(^2\). However, in general, it is believed that in the tutor education system, the role of the tutor is completely different from that in the faculty of Liberal Arts University. For example, tutor’s main role is to take care of international students\(^3\).

In this study, I focused on a case of a tutor and student’s attitude survey within the faculty of Liberal Arts University to limit the subject of the study to a definite study area. In addition, this study aimed to make consistency with the way of a tutor system and the student’s request and the estrangement of the faculty of Liberal Arts University clear and consider the future of tutor system.

Materials and Methods

The tutor system came into existence more
than 10 years ago in Saitama Gakuen University in Saitama, and it is one of the features that was taken up to enrich the University. In addition, it was also considered to reduce the flunkies. I take this university’s case in this study.

Every week, 1 hour was specially assigned for the 1st to 4th graders, where a group of 8 to 18 people was formed, and the seminar teacher used to play the role of a tutor. A student's mail address was linked with the phone number, and a tutor performed the following duties besides taking the class: (1) he/she had to take registration and strictly address students who behaved as a truant, (2) he/she had to check whether the school assignments were handed in within the assigned deadline, (3) he/she also had to keep record of the proper library submissions, (4) he/she had to keep proper care of the other social guidance, and (5) he/she also had to keep check on the vocational guidance consultation and interview practice.

Tutor of 1st grader is assigned by the name order on the university side, but a student becomes the same teacher 3 and 4 grader about a teacher of a request after 2nd grader, and therefore, graduation thesis guidance and a tutor will be the same person.

Various students were admitted to a university due to the decrease in the birthrate. Therefore, the education of social guidance, which is not necessary for higher education in the earlier times, was also the tutor’s duty. As I considered tutor education to be a 1st grader’s education, it is being performed by a system consisting of a small number of people. So, it gets away from the high school’s surveillance and consists of students who are treated as adults and are, thus, embarrassed because they are childish.

With the increase in the time of student guidance, the teacher’s burden also increases. But, this system can evolve a student into a successful individual within the 4 years’ time.

The next chapter deals with an attitude survey about the student–tutor relationship. A questionnaire was prepared according to the following points:

It was not gender biased, so freedom was retained.

1st grader : a working date July 27, 2018; 28 females, 37 males—total 65.

2nd grader : a working date July 10, 2019; 31 females, 21 males—total 51.

3rd grader : a working date August 1 and 2, 2018; 32 females, 20 males—total 52.

The question items are as follows:

Q1: Do you think your tutor is helpful?
(1) Yes
(2) No
(3) It can be said neither

Q2: How long does it take to talk with a tutor including a session for 1 week? (A mail and telephone call are also included.)
(1) 1 hour–1.5 hours.
(2) 1.5 hours–2 hours
(3) 2 hours–3 hours
(4) More than 3 hours

Q3: For what kind of things do you consult with a tutor? (More than one answer can be chosen.)
Importance and Role of Tutorial System in Higher Education

hand, the other half remained neutral in their answers. When a new student enters a school, he/she does not know how to consult a tutor to know about the system of the university, the class and its rules and regulations, etc. and also about the duties of a tutor.

You assume the fact that contact time with a tutor of Q2 is mentioned later, and what kind of things need to be consulted with a tutor of Q3 is listed below:

1. About schoolwork 46%
2. About taking a class 38%
3. About the course 25%

Required subjects and trainings, etc. are interlocked for three licenses of nursery school teacher, a kindergarten teacher and an elementary school teacher. According to me, planning out a proper schedule is necessary to help a student who will prefer the support of a close person for counseling about schoolwork and the complicated rules and regulations of the first year.

Q4. What kind of things do you want a tutor to do? (More than one answer can be chosen)

1. I want my tutor to be capable of giving me advice 50%
2. I want my tutor to tell me to study properly 47%
3. I want the tutor to be able to help me with my studies 28%

As a result of Q3, the primary concern can be considered as taking the course properly and studying for it systematically. Fourth comes the interaction with the tutor and the other students.

Q4. What kind of things do you want a tutor to do?

1. I want to be able to consult the tutor about classes—50%
2. I want the tutor to be able to conduct a course counseling—47%
3. I want the tutor to be able to help me with my studies—28%

Result and Discussion

The result was as follows (See table1.).

1st grader:

56% of Q1(1). Here, about half of the 1st grade students acknowledged the importance of the existence of a tutor, but on the other
Contrary to the 1st grader, about 90 percent of students acknowledge the existence of a tutor. It is according to the following points.

1. About the course—75%.
2. About the schoolwork—67%.
3. About taking the class—28%.
4. About life in general—28%.

By the time the students become 3rd graders, they have to become more serious about the proper choice of training for job.

### Table 1. Result of questionnaire

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Q1: Do you think your tutor is helpful?</th>
<th>1st n=65</th>
<th>2nd n=52</th>
<th>3rd n=51</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>(1) Yes</td>
<td>56</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>88</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(2) No</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(3) It can be said neither</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>29</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Q2: How long does it take to talk with a tutor including a session for 1 week?</th>
<th>1st n=65</th>
<th>2nd n=52</th>
<th>3rd n=51</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>(1) 1 hour–1.5 hours</td>
<td>60</td>
<td>78</td>
<td>42</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(2) 1.5 hours–2 hours</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>46</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(3) 2 hours–3 hours</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(4) More than 3 hours</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Q3: For what kind of things do you consult with a tutor?(More than one answer can be chosen)</th>
<th>1st n=65</th>
<th>2nd n=52</th>
<th>3rd n=51</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>(1) The human relations</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(2) About schoolwork</td>
<td>46</td>
<td>51</td>
<td>67</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(3) About the course</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>45</td>
<td>75</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(4) About taking the course</td>
<td>38</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>28</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(5) About life in general</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>28</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(6) And so on</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(7) I don’t consult the tutor at all</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Q4: What kind of things do you want a tutor to do?(More than one answer can be chosen)</th>
<th>1st n=65</th>
<th>2nd n=52</th>
<th>3rd n=51</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>(1) I want my tutor to be capable of giving me advice</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>33</td>
<td>42</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(2) I want my tutor to tell me to study properly</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(3) I want my tutor to ask me about my personal worries</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>34</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(4) I want to have some fun outside of school with my tutor and other students</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(5) I want my tutor to be able to perform counseling</td>
<td>47</td>
<td>53</td>
<td>65</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(6) I want my tutor to guide me in my life</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(7) And so on</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Q5: What kind of person would you like your tutor to be?</th>
<th>1st n=65</th>
<th>2nd n=52</th>
<th>3rd n=51</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>(1) I’d like the same sex</td>
<td>64</td>
<td>41</td>
<td>59</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(2) I’d like the opposite sex</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(3) I don’t care the gender</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
hunting and must acquire appropriate qualifications in their course. Therefore, the chance to consult with a tutor about the studies for a course and its qualifications also seems to increase. When we consider about the choice of taking consultation about life in general, we can clearly observe from the investigation that it increases from 1st grader (10%) to the 3rd grader (28%). When job hunting approaches a student’s life, he/she feels anxious and disturbed by the distance created between him/her and the tutor; at this phase of life, the students want to consult the tutor more than just about studying—they want a closer relationship with the tutor as a friend.

Next, it is as a result of Q4.

1. About taking a class—65%.
2. About the course—42%.
3. About personal worries—34%.
4. About the studies—26%.

Twenty-three percent of the students would like to interact with the tutor and the other students outside the university.

No greater differences were noticed for the consultations on the course and the taking of a class compared with the 1st grader, but a significant difference from the 1st grader was that the students wanted to consult the tutor about their personal worries. This request which was the 6th place by 10% surfaces in 1st grader. The tutor is consulted more by the 3rd graders, and they want the tutor to be their consultant to whom they can tell their personal worries without any hesitation. The system of the university is also concerned about this. A tutor is assigned to the university in 1 year at A university, but several teachers are arranged every grade after 2 years, and so the student will be able to choose a teacher of their choice. It is possible to choose a new tutor by a 3rd grader. But it might be a fact that the same teacher may be assigned to both the 3rd and the 4th graders. Hence, all the teachers can be assigned for 3 years, and a student can choose a teacher among all the teachers. There can be a maximum of 8 people in a group; if there are more students, then the teacher can choose 8 students from them. There are different types of teachers, but a possibility that a teacher of the first or the second choice will be a tutor is high. Therefore, the teacher who choose personally in third years. The canvas portrays such differences, but the role of the tutor is understood gradually by having a hearty communication with the first year tutor. This lifts the fog, and one can vividly understand the relationship of mutual trust between a tutor as a consultant and a student.

Next is Q5, but there were many answers to which I choose “I’d like the same sex.” in both the graders. They answered that it is easier to talk to the same sex than other.

We get back to Q2 here, time to touch a tutor, 1st grader,(1) 1 hour - 1.5 hours 60%.
(2) 1.5 hours - 2 hours 25%, 3rd grader, (1) 42%, (2) 46%. With higher grades, we observe that the consultation time with a tutor increases.

It included the following points which are worth mentioning:

1st grader:
* I don’t like that a school decides a tutor a
student should take in 1st grade and I want the school to choose the tutor according to the student’s preferences.
* I want my tutor to listen to all my stories and give me a right solution sincerely.
* I want my tutor to give me less assignment during the test.
* I’d like to go to have a meal together with my tutor.
* I want to have parties, like birthday-party, with my tutor as well as I will like to talk properly with everyone about taking a class.

2nd grader:
* I want to my tutor give me administrative contact.
* I’d like to have journey with my tutorial class.
* I like this system because tutors are kinds compared with other university.

3rd grader:
* I am blessed with a teacher who is a wonderful tutor and she does what I want her to do for me, so there is no request in particular. I would love to have tea party, learning outside the university and thesis practice, etc. with my tutor.

Future research should employ new questions to address these issues and include other university students of all grades.

Conclusion

Now, we come to a conclusion about a tutor in the faculty of Liberal Arts University. Consultation about taking a class and study-related issues is a center in the first year, but as the grade increases, the support of a tutor becomes more necessary contrary to the expectation of university that upper grade students do not need to consult the tutor for support compared with 1st graders, and consultation time also tends to increase. The higher graders need consultation about their personal life, they need their tutor to be their consultant to whom they can tell all their worries. They also consult the tutor for the progress of the course and about taking a class. The upper graders require social guidance, which also is contrary to the idea of the university that social guidance is only required by the 1st graders. For the help of taking classes, tutor is quite helpful for the first year experience at university.

88% of 3rd grader answered their tutor is helpful for them, and none of them think tutors aren’t helpful. This shows that tutorial system is quite useful for most of students.

The tutor by which they’re as the related extended with a teacher to the high school, they need.

With the birthrate being low, it is easier for everybody to get admitted into the universities and the quality of the college student also changed simultaneously and can be considered as a prominent background. The teacher’s burden is also a necessary concern.

It is the utmost concern of a university to check that a student can get a tutor of their preference apart from quality securing support on the university side such as qualification acquisition and getting a job including a systematic problem. The tutors should not only be able to conduct a course or study properly at the same time, but they should also be able
to take care of their students and their problems with humanity. It'll be necessary to investigate according to the scholastic aptitude level from now on. It was an attitude survey by a faculty of liberal arts this time, but it's also necessary to be doing student's attitude survey by other department.

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