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AN INNOVATIVE APPROACH FOR UNIVERSITIES TO FULFILL THEIR SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITIES EMPIRICAL CASE STUDY IN TAIWAN

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ABSTRACT

Universities have been established for thousand years to pursue knowledge, facilitate social development, and cultivate citizens in order for better lives with well-being, harmony, and civilization. In the last decades, it seems to become a global trend that universities generally emphasize the academic research under the international competition in the fields of academic ranking, economy, and technology advancement. Their social responsibilities consequently receive relatively limited attention; students without academic talents, even possessing multifaceted aptitudes, are inevitably ignored. Those youngsters are unfortunately underdeveloped and even unfairly recognized as social burden. It is so important for universities to bring back their social responsibilities on campus.

This study addresses an empirical approach undertaken by a university of science and technology to initiate innovative programs for underdeveloped youngsters, with special aptitudes but dropout from schools, to revitalize their learning enthusiasm and reach impressive achievement in various fields. As its social responsibilities equivalently alongside the ones to superlative research and industry services, this university commits these pioneering programs including Prospective Program for aptitude students, Talented Pilotage Program for spillover creativity, Elite Program for accelerated achievement, and that like. Each program recruits 15 students with special talents and demands to receive individual educational plan which is designed under the intensive cooperation among student, faculty members, consultant, and even employer to develop each student's utmost potential. Synthetically, this paper will focus on the following issues:

1. The general phenomena occurring in current university settings;
 2. The major missions of innovative programs in Taiwan;
 3. The administrative strategies and instructional contents of these programs;
 4. The retrospection on these pioneering approaches.
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