

The Generation X

After the Korean War, achievements in this country's economic development were attributed, by and large, to many hardworking people. Without them, Korea would never have become so prosperous.

Today, however, Korea faces a new problem; an increasing number of young people do not want to work. According to a recent government report, about 84 percent of young Korean men and women are not interested in finding work after university. Many are happy just to stay at home, living off their parents' income. I believe there are many reasons for this.

Mainly, parents were, and still are, too busy working to nurture their children properly, often buying things as a way to show their love for them. Why should these children work to buy their own car when they can just drive their parents' BMW, or a car their father bought for them?

Also, since parents are not really watching their children, many of them never learn to respect others. They either become addicted to Internet games, or addicted to the party life.

This problem threatens the Korean economic development to such an extent that we have no choice but to face it, and do our best to overcome it. If parents take the initiative with their family, and the government strives to deal with the problem of "children who sponge off their parents" then Korea could possibly become a real economic power once again.

Questions for discussion:

1. What do you think of the younger generation?
2. How have things changed since you were young?
3. How are you different from your parents? What will you do differently when you become a parent?
4. What is wrong with the older generation?