

## 【刘哲伟专栏】教育不是纸上谈兵——哀悼阿扎图尔



刘哲伟

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国立与私立高等教育学府，绑定教职员处理数不清的行政文书工作，造成讲师如今已经偏离了授课的核心职责，也无法再担任培育工作。（档案照：透视大马）

我的一名前学生阿扎图尔（ADZATUL）上周逝世，我在这里向其家人表示哀悼。

谢谢你，阿扎图尔。你唤醒了我，让我想起自己是谁。

我引用她的一个好朋友上周发来的以下Whatsapp短信。

“早上好，刘博士，抱歉这么早给你发短信。我想亲自通知你，因为你是她真正喜欢的讲师之一，即使在我们的政治学概论科系毕业后这么多年，我们仍然会热衷的谈论你的授课。阿扎图尔今天上午在中央医院走了。”

她在我早期在国际伊斯兰大学讲课时选修我的课。那时的我，因为还未拿到博士资格，所以还未编列到系统内，我不算正式入职。也因这原因，没有被安排处理行政文书工作，再加上相比之下，系部门的文书工作没如今那么繁忙。

当时的我，可很轻松和学生打成一片。如果我说自己受到学生欢迎真的有点自大，那我就分享经验，留给你们自己判断吧！但学生有感情烦恼，男女朋友闹意见时，都会来找我倾诉。有一名甚至跟我倾诉与家婆的冲突。

还有一名学生课堂表现好，但是课堂汇报表现差。由于他也不想给其他同学知道太多，他就来到我的私人办公室哭诉他的情况。逗留了十多分钟，直到眼泪干了才离开。这就不会被人看见他曾经哭泣。当时，我有时间留给他，也有魄力留给他。

另一个更有趣的故事是院系主办活动，我和同事到购物商场购物，买了足足三辆手推车的物品。到了学校后只是在学生聊天群组内留言，学生就自动自发来帮忙搬运。相信我，从前的学生自动自发情景，如今已没能再复在。我还有不少有趣事，就不在这里——分享了。

简单来说，我想说的是，我感觉到学生对我的信任，愿意和我分享他们的事情。很多时候，他们来找我不过是希望有一个倾诉对象，宣泄心中的压力和不快，而平辈朋友并非他们愿意找的对象。

坦白说，我喜欢当时的自己，也为此感到骄傲，不幸的是，随着工作繁重，今天的我，与五年前的我已经不同。



今非昔比，大学讲师以前与学生打成一片，现今彼此是关系疏远。（档案照：透视大马）

今时今日在大学教书，非我学府，包括其他国立和私立学府，都有很多行政的文书工作要处理。讲师如今已经偏离了授课的核心职责，也无法再担任培育工作。很多大学的制度，表面上看起来很好，实际操作是多余。例如刻意的提倡指导学生制度，反而学生们没有来找导师们，包括我。因为不基于信任，学生也不来找我。所以讲师与学生建立的信任是需要时间累积。

同样地，高等教育学府的学者也需要处理大量的文书工作。讽刺的说一句，这需要很多时间才能完成，完成后就被堆积在储藏室内，或者一年才审计一次。此外，很多文件只不过是从一份文件重复复制到另一份文件。这么无聊和无意义，为何还需要进行呢？因为指令下来就需要做，有没有意义已经不是考量点。

再加上，即使文件做的多完美，但却没有真正转化为实践，那么，完美的文件有意义吗？令我更无言的是，某些学府，甚至还会故意修改分数和成绩使得报告看起来完美，这其实根本反映不了学生的实际质量。

对于此，我反而认为公立大学在这方面要好一些，相对于私立院校，公立大学有更大的自主权，私立学府会担心马来西亚资格认证（MQA）的评分。

据我所知，有一所私立学府为了规划完美的成绩曲线，硬性规定即A和A以上的分数，都是有上限，不及格也有下限，甚至平均分数和标准偏差都可以操作，目的只是为了让成绩看起来更漂亮。

我感到遗憾，今天马来西亚的大学似乎不关心学生的学术质量和培养学生，只是一味追求讲师要做好行政和文书工作，教育机构已经变成机器人般的常规操作。



“今天的我不再是五年前的我”，我本身发觉到，许多同事也面临和我一样的窘境。与学生打成一片的热情不再，教育不再是成效，不再是培养学生的质量，政府应该关注这个问题。教育工作不能注重文书工作，不出问题就假装大象不在房间，当事情被集体视而不见、不做讨论的事情时，问题只会根深蒂固。

\* 刘哲伟目前在国际伊斯兰大学政治学系任职助理教授。在此之前，也曾其他高等学府执教。刘哲伟先后于马来西亚国立大学取得政治学学士及硕士学位，并于英国布里斯托大学取得政治学博士。

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# [Liu Zhewei's Column] Education is not just talk on paper - Mourning for Azatul



**Liu Zhewei**

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*State and private higher education institutions have tied their teaching staff to handle countless administrative paperwork. As a result, lecturers have now deviated from their core responsibilities of teaching and can no longer perform training tasks. (File photo: The Malaysian Insight)*

One of my former students, ADZATUL, passed away last week and I would like to express my condolences to his family.

Thank you, Azatur. You wake me up and remind me of who I am.

I quote the following Whatsapp text message from one of her good friends last week.

"Good morning Dr. Liu, sorry for texting you so early. I wanted to inform you personally because you are one of the lecturers she really likes and who we are still keen on even after so many years after graduating from our Introduction to Political Science department Talking about your lectures. Azatul left at the General Hospital this morning."

She took my classes during my early lectures at the International Islamic University. At that time, because I had not yet received my Ph.D. qualification, I was not yet listed in the system, so I was not considered officially employed. For this reason, I was not assigned to handle administrative paperwork, and in comparison, the department's paperwork was not as busy as it is now.

At that time, I could easily mingle with the students. If I say that I am really popular with students, I am a bit arrogant, then I will share my experience and leave it to you to judge for yourself! But when students have emotional troubles or have disagreements with their boyfriends and girlfriends, they come to me to talk to them. One student even told me about a conflict he had with his mother-in-law.

There is also a student who performs well in class but performs poorly in class reports. Since he didn't want to let other students know too much, he came to my private office and cried about his situation. I stayed for more than ten minutes and didn't leave until my tears dried up. This would prevent anyone from seeing him cry. At that time, I had both time and courage for him.

Another more interesting story is an event hosted by the department. My colleagues and I went shopping at a shopping mall and bought three trolleys worth of items. After arriving at school, just leave a message in the student chat group, and students will automatically come to help carry it. Believe me, the former students' spontaneous situation is no longer the same now. I have many interesting things, so I won't share them all here.

Simply put, what I want to say is that I feel that students trust me and are willing to share their things with me. Many times, they come to me just hoping to have someone to talk to and vent their stress and unhappiness, and friends of their own generation are not the ones they are willing to find.

Frankly speaking, I like who I was back then and I am proud of it. Unfortunately, with the heavy workload, the person I am today is different from the person I was five years ago.





*Things are different now. University lecturers used to mingle with their students, but now they are estranged from each other. (File photo: The Malaysian Insight)*

Nowadays, teaching in universities, not only in our institutions, but also in other public and private institutions, has a lot of administrative paperwork to deal with. Lecturers have now strayed from their core responsibility of teaching and can no longer perform nurturing roles. Many university systems look good on the surface but are redundant in practice. For example, the system of mentoring students was deliberately promoted, but students did not come to the mentors, including me. Students don't come to me because it's not based on trust. Therefore, it takes time to build trust between lecturers and students.

Likewise, academics at higher education institutions also have to deal with a lot of paperwork. Ironically, this takes a lot of time to complete and then gets piled up in a storage room or audited only once a year. Additionally, many files are simply copied repeatedly from one document to another. Why does it need to be done if it's so boring and pointless? Because it needs to be done once the instructions are given, whether it makes sense is no longer a consideration.

In addition, even if the documents are perfect, they are not actually translated into practice. So, do perfect documents mean anything? What makes me even more speechless is that some schools even deliberately modify scores and results to make the report look perfect, which actually does not reflect the actual quality of students at all.

Regarding this, I think public universities are better in this regard. Compared with private institutions, public universities have greater autonomy. Private institutions will worry about the ratings of the Malaysian Qualifications Accreditation (MQA).

As far as I know, in order to plan a perfect grade curve, one private school has a rigid rule that there is an upper limit for grades A and above, and there is a lower limit for failure. Even the average score and standard deviation can be manipulated. The purpose is just to let The results look better.

I regret that today's universities in Malaysia seem not to care about the academic quality and training of students, but only blindly pursue lecturers to do administrative and clerical work. Educational institutions have become robotic and routine operations.

"The person I am today is no longer the person I was five years ago." I myself realized that many colleagues are facing the same dilemma as me. There is no longer a passion for being involved with students, education is no longer about effectiveness, it is no longer about the quality of training students, and the government should pay attention to this issue. Education cannot focus on paperwork and pretend the elephant is not in the room until problems arise. When things are collectively turned a blind eye and no discussion is done, problems will only become entrenched.

*\* Liu Zhewei is currently an assistant professor in the Department of Political Science at the International Islamic University. Before that, he also taught in other institutions of higher learning. Liu Zhewei obtained a bachelor's degree and a master's degree in political science from the National University of Malaysia, and a doctorate in political science from the University of Bristol in the United Kingdom.*

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