會考模擬試全 U 變雙碩士
SEN 孩子今重返教室助同路人

From Exam Failures to Master's Degrees: Dyslexic Student Returns to the Classroom to Help Others

SENovate - Twiggy Chan

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「我覺得是一種原動力，有時我教學生的時候，好像看見自己的影子……」陳卓琪（Twiggy）在16歲確診讀寫障礙，曾厭惡學習，考試全科不合格，只見前路灰暗。後來她遇上啟蒙老師，教她「如何學習」，最後她成功考上大學，攻讀兩個碩士學位，再開辦博雅思教育中心，教導SEN（特殊教育需要 Special Education Needs）學生尋找自我價值，克服學習困難。 Twiggy兩年前再度突破，透過Good Seed開辦「SENovate」課程，指導學生嘗試創業，激發其自我潛能。

"It's my motivation. When I teach my students, I see myself." Twiggy Chan was diagnosed with dyslexia at the age of 16. She once loathed the idea of learning and failed all her exams. Her future seemed bleak. She later met a teacher who enlightened her about learning. Eventually, she got into university, obtained two master's degrees and set up Boaz International Education Institute. Her mission is to guide students with special educational needs (SEN) to acknowledge their self-worth and overcome learning difficulties. With the help of Good Seed, Twiggy had another breakthrough two years ago and established the "SENovate" program, which encourages students to become to entrepreneurship and explore their potentials.

讀書曾是無間地獄

「每一天上學我都無間斷地哭、在地上滾、嘔；做功課扯頭髮、咬斷鉛筆、或者撕爛功課。」有讀寫障礙的Twiggy，從第一天上學到三年級，讀書都是她的無間地獄。

16歲前，她不知道自己患有讀寫障礙，只認定學習是痛苦。升中後，她到英國讀書，但情況依然惡劣，會考模擬試成績全U（未能評級）。「如果有去過外國讀書，便知道會考拿U其實好難，不合格都是D或E，好少U。」她說。

模擬試觸礁對她彷如迎頭痛擊，就在人生谷底裡，校長向Twiggy推薦了一位老師，改寫了她的生命軌跡。啟蒙老師與其他老師不同之處，在於他首先令Twiggy了解究竟自己懂甚麼、不懂甚麼，「好多時老師問我不明白甚麼，我根本說不出來，因為我也不知道自己學了甚麼。」在溫書之前，這位老師先讓她理解甚麼是「學習」，而沒有強行將大量知識塞進她的腦袋，做到真正明白箇中意思，才是學習的真義。會考來臨，她所考三個科學科目，由模擬試U級，到公開試躍升至B級。

其後她以全優成績（distinction）畢業，獲獎學金入讀香港大學，再攻讀融合及特殊教育碩士和社會工作碩士。

SEN學生也能成為小創業家

她確信每個小孩都有學習能力。因此她決意修讀教育文憑，再開辦專門教導SEN學生的博雅思教育中心，研發學習技巧，教學生一些有趣和簡單易明的學習方式。

她在Good Seed協助下開設了「SENovate」課程，培育SEN學生成為小創業家。Twiggy說，課程並非要求每位小朋友都走創業道路，但願透過實踐向他們灌輸創業精神，如解難技巧、創意、溝通技巧和了解自己的強項，有能力選擇日後的出路。Good Seed希望透過支持具社會創業精神的計劃，從而產生社會效益，建立社會資本。Twiggy相信，如果小朋友能夠從小培養創業精神，對自身有益，亦有利於社會。就是靠著這個理念，Twiggy獲得Good Seed的認同，得到種子基金，為期九個月的SENovate正式啟動。

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Studying Was Hell

"I would cry, roll on the floor and throw up every day at school. I would pull my hair, break my pencils into half and tear my homework into pieces." To Twiggy, who was diagnosed with dyslexia, school was like hell from the first day until the third grade.

She did not know that she had dyslexia until she was 16. Before that, she just thought that learning was painful. She went to the UK to study abroad during her secondary school years, but her situation remained dire. She scored U (Unclassified) in all of her mock exams. "If you have studied abroad, you would know how difficult it is to get a U in GCSE. People who failed usually get a D or an E, but not a U," she said.

The failure in the mock exams was a heavy blow to Twiggy and she hit the rock bottom. Fortunately, the principal introduced her to a teacher who changed her life. This teacher, who was different from other teachers, helped Twiggy find out what she knew and what she did not. "Teachers would often ask me what is it that I didn't understand, but I couldn't tell, because I myself didn't know what I have learnt." Before every revision, this teacher made Twiggy understand what "learning" was and did not try to force everything into her head, instead she made sure that she thoroughly understood the concept. Eventually, Twiggy made huge improvements and managed to get a B in the three Science subjects she took in the public exam.

She graduated with distinction and received a scholarship to study at the University of Hong Kong. She then furthered her studies and pursued Master's Degrees in Inclusive and Special Education and Social Work.

SEN Students Can be Entrepreneurs too

Twiggy is convinced that every child is capable of learning. Therefore, she decided to take a diploma in education and set up Boaz International Education Institute, which specialises in teaching SEN students. The centre is dedicated to teach students in fun, simple and effective ways and nurture them to become independent learner.

With the help of Good Seed, Twiggy started the "SENovate" program to nurture SEN students into young entrepreneurs. The program's aim is not to put participants on the path of entrepreneurship, but to instil the spirit of entrepreneurship in them through practice.

Participants will develop problem-solving skills, creativity, communication skills and knowledge about their own strengths, which will empower them to choose their career paths. Through supporting social entrepreneurship programs, Good Seed hopes to generate social benefits and build social capital. Similarly, Twiggy believes that developing an entrepreneurial spirit at a young

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讓學生覺得讀寫障礙是天賦

Twiggy說，SENovate課程中發現同學皆極具創意。她舉例說，有學生留意到香港社會的回收意識薄弱，因此發明了一部回收機——每當回收一次，回收機便吐出一個玩具，藉此吸引人回收。

SENovate給學生發光發亮的機會，在創業的過程中建立自我形象。Twiggy直言，有學生曾覺得讀寫障礙是件羞恥的事，但現在他覺得這反而是種天賦（gift）。「他們知道自己不是讀不到書，才覺得自己有能力繼續讀上去，覺得日後出來都有選擇。」

「教學生像看見自己的影子」

Twiggy說，指導學生創業時，導師也要具備創業精神，「例如帶組，當他們有衝突的時候，你如何運用他們的衝突去教他們合作，很講求on spot那位怎樣去帶。」

初創社企時總會碰釘，無論是到學校推廣計劃，還是在教育中心教學生，都要花極大的力氣。Twiggy曾想放棄，但每當看見學生有自信地表現自己，得到家長和學校老師的認同，她明白一切也值得。「每一個回應，對於我們的影響，我會說是入到心裡，觸碰到我的心，給我力量繼續去做。」Twiggy說。

幫助別人，也是心靈上的自我救贖。「我覺得是一種原動力，有時我教學生的時候，好像看見自己的影子。」特別是看到同學一步一步成長，突破舒適圈，她覺像在幫助昔日的自己，「我曾遇到一些好好的朋友，好好的老師，帶自己走出困局，希望他們一樣。」Twiggy感嘆。

age not only benefits the individual, but also the society. Her ambition was acknowledged by Good Seed, so she was awarded the seed fund to launch her nine-month "SENovate" program.

Helping Students See Dyslexia as a Gift

Twiggy pointed out how creative the students in the "SENovate" program are. She gave an example of a student noticing the lack of awareness about recycling in the community and invented a recycling machine. The machine encourages the community to recycle more by giving out a toy each time someone uses the recycling machine.

"SENovate" offers students a chance to shine and build their self-image in the process of entrepreneurship. Twiggy said that some students used to feel ashamed about having dyslexia, but now they regard it as a gift. "They now understand that they are not incapable of learning. They know that they can continue with their studies and that they have a choice in their future."

Seeing Herself in Her Students

Twiggy stressed that mentors should possess the entrepreneurial spirit as well. "For example, when leading a group, it is critical to transform conflicts within the group into a catalyst for better cooperation."

Obstacles often arise when setting up a social enterprise. It takes a lot of effort to promote the program in schools and to teach students in the centre. Twiggy had once considered giving up, but when she saw the success of her students and the recognition they received from their parents and teachers, she realised that the hard work was worthwhile. "Every response we received has an impact on us, and through the responses, we were able to recognize the students' courage to stepping out of their comfort zones. In some stances, some students even choose to help other groups, despite their own difficulties. It reaches the bottom of my heart and gives me the strength to keep going," she said.

Helping others is also a form of self-redemption. "It's my motivation. When I teach my students, I see myself in them." Especially when students show gradual improvement, breaking through their comfort zones, Twiggy feels like she is helping her old self. "I have met some good friends and teachers who led me out of the maze. I hope to do the same for these students," Twiggy remarked.