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Religious Education and Related Problematic Issues in Current Korean Elementary-Secondary Schools and Beyond

[*abstract]

Chae Young KIM
[Sogang University, South Korea]

Abstract

Currently, most Korean religious education can be categorized as fitting into either of these two situations. The more that religious education is turned into an issue in public schools, the more that most of the religiously founded schools try to defend the merits of their own “religious” framework, seeking to strengthen it while, on the other hand, the public schools try to avoid dealing with considerations which would want to regard religious education as something which should be taught if students are to be prepared to assume the responsibilities that come with a form of global citizenship. Today, this unwillingness is to be regarded as the chief obstacle which works against the development of religious education in schools. If there is to be a breakthrough in this context in a way which does not ignore of the Korean government’s educational policy on religious education, the only viable alternative (apparently) is a choice which seeks to walk in the footsteps of a policy that is influenced by the general direction of religious education as this has arisen and as it has developed on the basis of a critical understanding of religious studies with respect to religion in general as a global phenomenon, exhibiting many diversities worldwide.