

Based on Taoism, “wu wei” is the best policy for (graduate) education

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Alan I. Leshner wrote an article entitled “student-centered, modernized graduate STEM education” (1). “wu wei” has the deep meanings in Chinese which has been used for education for many years. “wu” means without and “wei” means effort. “wu wei” does not mean “no effort.” Mr. Taguchi, Japanese Taoist explains that “wu wei” means watching with a sense of tension. In other words, if you are watching with a sense of tension, you can respond flexibly to every situation. Educators with “wu wei” policy, can help/support young researchers while they can gain experiences including failures by themselves. Educators must understand two basic policies: no interference and “wu wei.” Any interference to young researchers by faculty or advisor spoils/crushes young researchers. Senior educators may know the expected result of the research conducted by young researchers. However, every senior educator must have a patience with “wu wei” without any interference. This is why a good education system needs time and money with “wu wei” policy.

References:

1. Alan I. Leshner, “student-centered, modernized graduate STEM education,” *Science* 01 Jun 2018: Vol. 360, Issue 6392, pp. 969-970