

2011년 5월 27일 키워드 스피킹 방송 / 주제: 반값 등록금

Paul's Summary (transcribed)

Millions of students and their parents have been paying close attention to the news lately for what may be the future of Korea's education policy. This week, Representative Hwang Woo-yea of the ruling Grand National Party has stated that he and the GNP are committed to dramatically **lowering college tuition up to fifty percent**. Originally, this had been one of President Lee Myung-bak's major **campaign pledges** back in 2007. However, due to an unfavorable economy, the Lee administration was unable to **curb** the **out-of-control rise** of college tuition which has seen a rise of almost 100% in the last decade. Rep. Hwang stated that the government would raise college scholarships, **expand student loan programs**, and lower interest rates. It is estimated that it would take approximately 2 to 5 trillion won to **subsidize** the new program.

Progressive civic groups and the opposition Democratic Party welcomed the idea but felt it was more of an **empty gesture** citing a lack of **fiscal feasibility** and current **mismanagement** of government programs. Many have labeled the already delayed promise of lower tuition as **populist**, which is considered a common tactic to **gain votes** for the election without considering how practical it may be.

Another concern that is facing this issue is the **saturation of colleges** in Korea. With so many new schools **cropping** all over the country, it is expected that **supply of university seats will outpace demand**. This **overpopulation** of colleges is **diluting the quality** of education, as many schools are considered **far from reputable**. This brings the question to whether the government should subsidize tuition **across the board** regardless of the quality of the school. Others are arguing further that the government shouldn't be just throwing money at this issue but take a harder look at **the root of the problem**. Suggestions have included that private universities should **depend less on tuition for their total operating costs** and that scholarships should be given out on a case by case basis with emphasis on **low-income families**.

Considering that college tuition in Korea is the second highest among OECD countries **next to** the U.S., there is a social consensus that the tuition cut is inevitable. The question is how to do it.

Key Words

1. 반값등록금 lower/cut/decrease college tuition by 50 percent; halving college tuition
2. 대학진학률 ratio of students going on to post secondary education
3. 일률적으로 across the board
4. 운영비를 등록금에만 의존하다 depend on tuition for operating costs
5. 대학 구조조정 college restructuring
6. 취업 후 상환제 student loan; repayment plan; income contingent loan
7. 포퓰리즘 populism; full of empty promises; he's doing that to get votes
8. 선거공약 campaign pledge
9. 고등학교 졸업생 수가 대학 입학생보다 많다 supply of university seats outpace demand
10. 저소득층 low-income families
11. 등록금 인하는 대학 구조조정과 병행되어야 한다 cutting college tuition should go hand in hand with college restructuring
12. 부자감세 철회 repeal tax cuts for the rich; take away tax cuts from the rich
13. 정부 재정 지출 합리화 streamlining government expenditure; reorganizing government spending

More Key Words

1. 대학 등록금을 마련하다 pay for college; fund college tuition
2. 전문대 vocational college
3. 등록금의 무분별한 인상을 막다 curb the out-of-control rise of college tuition
4. 재정 운용이 불가능하다 a lack of fiscal feasibility
5. 문제의 근본적인 원인 the root of the problem