

Education in Depopulated Areas

1. Motivation behind Research Paper

How is education changing due to the spread of coronavirus? It has become more difficult to do classes face-to-face than before and a lot of schools have adopted online class system. Nara Kokusai High School has also implemented the same online style of education. Therefore, I wondered if every child, regardless of their socioeconomic background, could get an education equally. I imagine that rural areas are slower than city areas to adopt the latest technology, so I focused on changes in education in Nara Prefecture. In addition, I was interested in how children use tablets.

2. Introduction

The aim is to get to know about the problem of education in underpopulated areas. According to the academic ability test conducted by the Ministry of Education, depopulated areas had the lowest average score by region. In 2019, the Ministry of education announced “the GIGA school plan.” It is omitted “Global and Innovation Gateway for All” and means a global and innovative opportunity for all students. The purpose of this plan is to implement a style of education that nurtures a student’s creativity and establishes an ICT environment. It has also been adopted in depopulated areas, and a tablet is prepared for all students. This widely used education style includes programming classes, doing homeworks and interaction

with other schools on the Internet.

Shimane Dozen high school in Oki Island carried out a building department that nurtured students who become local entrepreneurs and established an environment to learn with local people. As a result, almost all children hope to go on to higher education in Dozen high school and the number of people who migrate from outside the island has increased. In addition, the number of students of Dozen high school and population has increased.

3. Results and Analysis

In order to shed some light on this topic, I created questionnaires and had the students at Nara Kokusai share their opinions.

[1st time]

Question① In this country, all elementary school students and junior high school students are provided with tablet. Do you think the children's literary ability will improve through ICT education? What is the most effective way to use this tool ?

Result① 60% of students answered No, and 40% students answered Yes. The opinions of those who answered No were: eyesight will be worse and ability of reading and writing will decrease. The opinions of those who answered Yes were : students can record and look back on classes, and students can learn many things that are not in textbooks.

Question② Do you want to return to Nara in the future?

Result②64% of students answered Yes, 27% of students answered No, and 9% of students answered that I have no intention of leaving Nara. The opinions of those who answered Yes were: it is easy to go to cities such as Osaka and Kyoto, and there are few disasters. The opinions of those who answered No were: there are few jobs.

[2nd time]

Question① Do you know the depopulated problem in Nara?

Result① Almost all students answered No.

Question② What should we do so that Kokusai high school becomes a community-based school?

Result② Join local events as volunteers, hold events that local people can join.

The first questionnaire revealed that many students think that the children's literary ability will not improve through ICT education. I also think ICT education is not always effective. If students are able to search on the Internet, the ability to think and find answers will not improve. From these, ICT education is effective if teachers or parents can manage when, where and how much children use it. However, because of Corona, the tasks of teachers are increasing, so it's difficult to manage them. The second questionnaire revealed that a lot of high school students are not interested in the depopulated problem, so I think it important to solve it. In addition, holding an event is slightly difficult, so it is necessary to compromise by participating in local events actively.

4. Conclusion and Future Problems

The gaps of education between the city and the countryside are disappearing by the GIGA school plan. Based on the questionnaire results, many students are not interested in the problem of underpopulated areas so, it is necessary to get to know about the problem through this thesis. On whether ICT education improves children's literacy ability, I could not collect enough evidence to make any strong claims. It was only three years ago that ICT education began to be adopted nationally, so it is necessary to conduct literacy tests on a regular basis and examine their progress. In addition, revitalising schools is related to region revitalization and improvement of depopulation.

If there are no jobs in their own country, people don't want to live there for a long time, so to improve depopulation, it needs to expand work. In addition, the depopulation problem is something that we must continue to think about. It always needs to try new things and get to know about it to people living in urban areas. To continue it will be able to make a sustainable town.

5. Reflection

I came to know about the problem of underpopulated areas because of Global Exploration classes. However, I did not know about it until then. Through this research project, I was able to know how close it is. Using my research, I want to contribute to the community by informing them about the problem, suggesting how to use tablets effectively, holding events where people can interact with local people, and so on. I hope that I can make a difference in education through these efforts.

6. Work Cited

Shimizu Kokichi. "The Regional Gap of Literary Ability"Osaka University Graduate School. March, 2009. Web Oct 2022.

"About the realisation of the GIGA school concept"Ministry of education.December, 19.2019. Web Oct 2022.