

IMPORTANCE OF TAKING HOLISTIC APPROACH TO SCHOOL DISASTER EDUCATION

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1995 Kobe Earthquake

- Occurred on 17th Jan, 1995
- More than 6,400 people were killed
- Around 10 billion USD economical loss was estimated
- In the preceding decades, there had been few catastrophic disasters in Japan

Articles on Disaster Education

- Newspaper (The Asahi Shimbun)
 - ▣ Jan 1984- Jan 1995: 33 (3/year)
 - ▣ Jan 1995- Jan 2009: 599 (42.8/year)
 - Journal (NDL-OPAC)
 - ▣ 1975- 1994: 11 (0.6/year)
 - ▣ 1995- Jan 2009: 261 (18.6/year)
- Kobe earthquake changed the situation of disaster education in Japan

Problems of School Disaster Education in Japan

- Lack of resources
 - ▣ Disaster education survey for public schools in Tokyo prefecture (by Tokyo Gakugei Univ. Dec. 2005)
 - To allocate time slots for disaster education is difficult
Elementary 46.0%, Junior High 52.3%, Senior High 46.2%
 - Lack of teacher training
Elementary 20.1%, Junior High 25.0%, Senior High 30.8%
 - ▣ Disaster education survey for local educational boards (Dec. 2006)
 - Time is not enough: Prefectures 68.3%, Major cities 72.7%
 - Teacher's knowledge is not enough: Prefectures 70.7%, Major cities 36.4%
 - Lack of teacher training: Prefectures 63.4%, Major cities 72.7%

Two ways of disaster education in Schools

- Cross-Curricula
 - ▣ Put disaster education into each subject
 - ▣ Learning about disasters in math, geography, science and so on
 - ▣ National curriculum: All schools have to follow
 - Extra Curricula (Integrated study)
 - ▣ Use some special time slots for disaster education
 - ▣ National curriculum: Each school can choose topics for this time
- Around 80% of advanced schools take the extra curricula way in Japan

Advanced schools

- Schools which participated the Contest of Disaster Education for Children (Kodomo Bousai Koshien)
- These advanced schools are doing not only fire drill
 - ▣ First aid
 - ▣ Lecture by local people

Integrated Study

- Since 2000
- 1- 3 time slot(s) per week
- Each school can choose what they teach
- Communication with local people is encouraged
- Environment, Social welfare, IT, International issues
- Disaster Education is related to many subjects
- Integrated study time slots suit for disaster education

A Problem of Integrated Study

- The result of the world achievement survey by OECD (Programme for International Student Assessment) in 2004 showed a decline in achievement
- Many want to reduce or abolish "Integrated Study" in order to concentrate on improving achievement
- It has been decided to reduce number of integrated study time slots in the revised national curriculum

Disaster Education and Academic Achievement

- Kobe earthquake was a driving force of disaster education
- People believed that disaster education is useful for children
- People are interested in academic achievement rather than disaster education
- It is necessary to show effectiveness of disaster education

Murder Cases

- Hino elementary school murder (1999) : A student was killed
- Ikeda elementary school murder (2001) : 8 students were killed, 13 students & 2 teachers were injured
- People's main concern was changed to school safety issues

How can we improve disaster education?

- Schools have time restriction
- The importance of disaster education must be proved
- However, schools face the new problem
- Holistic approach to school disaster education is one of the answers

Two approaches to disaster education

- Separated Approach
 - ▣ Each risk is taught in separated classes
 - ▣ Disaster education means the education for natural hazards
 - ▣ Japan
- Holistic Approach
 - ▣ All risks are taught as risks in life
 - ▣ Disaster education includes not only education for natural hazards but also education for traffic safety, internet security etc.
 - ▣ UK

Traffic Accidents vs. Natural Disasters

- 1,182,970 people were injured by traffic accidents in 2004
 - 7,358 people were killed by traffic accidents in 2004
 - 306 people were killed by natural hazards in 2004
- Even in Japan, it is useful to take the holistic approach

Key Questions

- What is the goal of disaster education?
- What do we want to protect?

Thank you very much!