

1. Study on Structure and Development of School Subjects

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(1) Purpose and Aim of Study

The aims of this study are to identify issues in the structuring of school subjects and curriculum in each subject area in elementary, lower secondary, and upper secondary schools, as well as to survey and analyze the historical development of subject structure in Japan and trends in curriculum structuring in other countries, in order to produce a basic resource for use when in improving the curriculum and developing subject structure into the future.

(2) Outline of Research Results

- The study was divided into three areas: (1) survey of curricular standards in other countries, (2) review of the historical development of the school curriculum in Japan, and (3) analysis of cases in curricular development in the context of educational practice. Surveys and research were pursued in each of these fields.
- The survey of curricular standards in other countries looked at curricula in the U.S., the UK, France, Germany, China, South Korea, Singapore, and Taiwan and identified curricular standards, the location, structure, and content of each subject within the curriculum, and distinguishing features when viewed in comparison with Japan. The findings of the survey were collated by subject area and country.
- The historical development of the school curriculum in each subject area in Japan was surveyed and analyzed in line with the characteristics of each subject area, in terms of changes in objectives and content and the backgrounds thereto.
- In order to analyze cases of curricular development in the context of educational practice, the study assessed and organized information on research and development on the curriculum taking place in MEXT experimental schools. It was found that cases of research and development can be classified into different types, such as reorganization that

encompasses whole curricular fields and subject areas, reorganization of specific subject areas, and reorganization through addition of new subjects.