

<p>15. Research on Vitalization of Community Educational Functions to Support Home Education Leader: BABA Yujiro, Director, Practical Social Education Research Center</p>
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(1) Purpose and Aim of Study

By clarifying the status of community activities relating to home education support and surveying the role of the community and the nature of activities that make use of community educational functions, this study helps to energize such functions in the aim of enhancing home education support.

(2) Outline of Research Results

We conducted an Internet-based survey of 3,000 men and women in their twenties or above to canvass their views on home education support activities and the role of the household and the community in children's education. We also selected eight locations where community educational functions are being harnessed to conduct forward-thinking activities related to home education support and carried out site surveys and interviews in these locations. The results of this research are outlined below.

- When asked if they thought communities should be actively involved in enhancing home education, 79.1% of all respondents answered "yes" and 20.9% answered "no."
- Those who answered "yes" to the question above were then asked to what extent communities should be involved in certain aspects of enhancing home education support. More than 50% of respondents replied that communities should be actively involved in the following areas: "Teaching children good manners and the need to observe the rules of society" (57.5%), "Instilling the importance of local culture, history, etc." (55.8%), and "Instilling the importance of the natural environment" (53.3%).
- When those not currently taking part in activities related to home education support that utilize community educational functions were asked if they would like to participate in such activities in the future, 54.4% replied "yes" and 45.6% replied "no."

- When those who responded “no” to the above question were asked their reasons, the most common answer was “Lack of time at work” (30.5%), followed by “Lack of time at home” (24.4%).
- Examination of activities utilizing community educational functions to support home education revealed a need for enhanced opportunities for parent-child interaction and experiential activities for children as well as support targeted at uninterested persons who do not take part in activities.
- In order to energize community educational functions relating to home education support and to set future direction, the study made three recommendations: restoration of an annual round of household events, methods of creating household and community norms, and reviving children’s after-school worlds in the community.