

16. Research on Hands-On Training

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(1) Purpose and Aim of Study

In order to develop programs that make effective use of hands-on training methods, we surveyed the current state of hands-on training programs being conducted by board of education secretariats and lifelong learning facilities and examined issues relating to such programs with a view to contributing to the training and up-skilling of social education instructors.

(2) Outline of Research Results

We surveyed prefectural and municipal board of education secretariats (1,840 organizations) and lifelong learning facilities (17,991 organizations) to ascertain the current state of hands-on training. The results are outlined below.

- When asked if they had conducted hands-on training programs, 34.2% of respondents answered “yes” and 52.7% answered “no.”
- When those that replied “yes” to the question above were asked what methods were used in conducting hands-on training, the most common response was “Fieldwork” (1,581 organizations), followed by “Buzz sessions” (1,224) and “Brainstorming” (902).
- All respondents were asked if they were considering the inclusion of hands-on training techniques in future training programs and courses: 39.5% answered “yes,” 33.7% “don't know,” and 15.9% “no.”
- When all respondents were asked about problems with hands-on training forums, the most common response was “Effects and results are not always clear” (29.2%), followed by “The effects sometimes don't extend beyond the learning forum (difficult to set objectives)” (29%), and “Sometimes generate only hypothetical discussion, which does not lead to action” (23%).
- When all respondents were asked what they would expect from training to improve skills in effectively conducting hands-on training programs, the most common response was “The chance to learn specific hands-on training methods” (49%), followed by “The chance to experience a diverse range of hands-on training” (40.5%), and “The chance to study a broad range of hands-on training examples” (37.5%).