

25. Study of Classes and Courses at Citizens' Public Halls

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(1) Purpose and Aim of Study

To study the status of classes and courses taught at citizens' public halls in order to provide basic documentation for vitalizing such facilities' activities, and to contribute to the enhancement of content for courses operated by MEXT and the NIER Practical Social Education Research Center.

(2) Outline of Research Results

We surveyed 1,840 municipal boards of education, nine corporations that have established citizens' public halls under the provisions of Article 21 of Social Education Law, and 16,182 citizens' public halls established under the same provisions to ascertain the content of courses and classes operated by such halls. The results are outlined below.

- Of the 9,075 citizens' public halls that responded to the survey, 7,001 (77.1%) conducted classes and courses during fiscal 2006.
- The average number of classes or courses conducted per hall was 14.6 in fiscal 2006, an increase of 1.2 from fiscal 2005.
- The subject area with the largest number of classes/courses was home education/family life (30,486 or 30.0%), followed by hobby/leisure activity lessons (26,297 or 25.9%) and physical education/sports (12,112 or 11.9%).
- In fiscal 2005 the per-hall average for classes and courses on contemporary issues was 2.2. The most common subject areas in this field were *dowa* (social integration/antidiscrimination) issues and human rights (1,737 classes/courses or 23.3%; a per-hall average of 0.5 classes/courses), followed by environmental protection/environmental issues (1,009 or 13.5%; a per-hall average of 0.3), and aging population/falling birth rate issues (851 or 11.4%; a per-hall average of 0.3).
- A per-hall average of 2.0 classes/courses were conducted in the civic awareness field in fiscal 2005. The largest number of classes and courses in this field dealt with local history/personalities (2,403 or 34.4%; a per-hall average of 0.7), followed by community disaster

prevention/safety (1,000 or 14.3%; a per-hall average of 0.3), and local performing arts (794 or 11.4%; a per-hall average of 0.2).

- In fiscal 2005 the per-hall average for leadership classes and courses was 1.6. Leader training was the most common subject area in this field, with 688 classes and courses (48.5%; a per-hall average of 0.8), followed by group development and operation, with 319 (22.5%; a per-hall average of 0.4), and facility volunteer training, with 247 (17.4%; a per-hall average of 0.3).
- The per-hall average for general education classes and courses was 2.2 in fiscal 2005. Computer and IT lessons were the most common subject area in this field, with 3,825 classes and courses (51.0%; a per-hall average of 1.1), followed by foreign languages, with 1,364 (18.2%; a per-hall average of 0.4).
- Citizens' public halls conducted an average of 1.6 classes and courses dealing with vocational knowledge or technology in fiscal 2005. The largest number of classes and courses dealt with computer technology (493 or 65.7%; a per-hall average of 1.0), followed by agriculture/forestry/aquaculture technology (81 or 10.8%; a per-hall average of 0.2).