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| <p>19. Study on the Role of Social Education in Shaping a New Public Spirit<br/>Leader: BABA Yujiro, Director, Practical Social Education Research<br/>Center</p> |
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(1) Purpose and Aim of Study

Based on the premise that in order to enhance communities' educational functions and build stronger community foundations there is a need to shape independent individuals and communities that can respond to changes in society, this study surveys and analyzes learning opportunities that address community issues and fields with strong social demand, together with leading examples of social education programs that encourage residents to take a positive approach to participation in society, and clarifies planning perspectives for social education programs that can help to shape a new public spirit.

(2) Outline of Research Results

- To examine the role of social education in shaping a new public spirit, we looked at eight practical examples of approaches to social education where local residents take positive steps to resolve local issues.
- Having identified eight programs from around Japan, we collated information on their particular features, overall content, results, issues, and prospects, analyzed links between local government and residents in the context of the programs, and summarized the role of social education in each program.
- The study categorized social education programs that help to shape a new public spirit into three phases—the initial stage, the advancement stage, and the evaluation/improvement stage—and summarized the contribution of social education to creating programs effective in shaping such a spirit.
- The initial stage is vital, and from the social education perspective it is important to obtain information on the various groups, organizations, and individuals involved at the local level, for social education administrators to play a role in disseminating and publicizing information to the community, and to promote and support initiatives.

- If the structure of social education programs that help to shape a new public spirit is considered at the individual program level, it is important to identify existing programs that can be linked or work cooperatively, and to develop new programs incorporating links and cooperative efforts with various local bodies and organizations.
- If the structure of social education programs that help to shape a new public spirit is considered as part of overall social education efforts, it is important to promote links and cooperation among programs from various perspectives, including links between school education and social education, between boards of education and key departments and bureaus, and between the public and private sectors. It is also important to evaluate programs appropriately, including cooperative processes, and to gain the understanding of local residents.
- If the structure of social education programs that help to shape a new public spirit is considered from the perspective of the work of those involved in social education, it is important to shift the focus of such work from the planning, operation, and evaluation of programs to coordination of links and cooperative efforts, while at the same time appropriately assessing these coordination tasks and clearly communicating their value to the community.
- From the perspective of planning social education programs that help to shape a new public spirit, this study clarified the need to create communities with rich human relationships cemented by education in order to promote mutual learning to build communities that generate a new public spirit. Two key points in this process are: i) cooperative efforts with diverse positive participation not only by local government, but also by residents, NPOs, and other stakeholders, and ii) returning the fruits of individual-demand-based study to the community by linking them to societal demands.