

Pre-service teacher training and In-service teacher training: Response to COVID-19 for geography education in Japan

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Abstract

Classes at the university have been implemented by online because of Covid-19. So, it has been necessary to devise lessons. In the social studies education and geography education classes of pre-service teacher training, field observation or field surveys have been no longer possible. However, skills for field research and observation are essential in the teaching profession in social studies and geography education. Therefore, in order to supplement that skill by online classes, it should emphasize the use of maps. And by reading read maps, it is important for students to found issues in the area and formed an image. After that, professors went to the points on the map and took pictures in an attempt to develop the skills for field observation and survey. As an individual activity, the students were asked to investigate the area around them in the same way, and without contacting other people. Finally, students made a report based on field surveys. It was meaningful for students to discover the characteristics of the area and to make feel the meaning of the area by their owns

In addition, many teachers were worried about classes in Covid-19. Therefore, meetings were held to discuss the anxieties and worries of social studies or geography education under Covid-19, sponsored by academic societies related to social studies and geography education by online. After having them gather by online and giving a general lecture, we used the breakout room to provide a place for small group conversations. By exchanging information on these subjects, It was able to give a sense of easy to the teachers who were struggling individually. Although such attempts have not been made in the past, it has been verified that post-pandemic meetings can be sufficiently effective.

Regarding disaster education, which is attracting international attention in social studies, especially geography education, we plan to hold a course on disaster prevention education in Japan, Singapore, South Korea, and Taiwan in March.