

Results and subjects about compulsory school education in the San'in Kaigan, UNESCO Global Geopark, Japan

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Q. What outcomes can we find in educational programs in the UGGP?

A. The elementary schools have conducted good practices.

About the Geopark

San'in Kaigan UGGP's themes Geological features, the natural environment, people's lives, and the formation of the Sea of Japan. In the Geopark, there are varied terrain and geological conditions that range from the days when Japan was still part of the Asian Continent to today. The Geopark also has cultural and historical heritage that has developed in its diverse natural surroundings (<http://sanin-geo.jp/en/info-index001>).

Purpose of this research

The author tried to find results and subject in order to promote good educational programs in the geopark. In this research, the author analyzed the reports (Working Group of Education, San'in Kaigan UNESCO Global Geopark Promotion Council, 2015) summarizing the aims of the classes, form of learning, and study contents in each school curriculum.

Outline of the analyzed reports

The questionnaire survey for the school was conducted in 2013 to all schools in the geopark. The collection rate is 96.6% for elementary school (115 out of 119 schools).

Case of elementary schools in K city

Form of learning: All 20 elementary schools have science class for sixth grade students in the geopark. A four-hour open air class includes observing geomorphology of rivers, beds, rocks and fault topography. The class also contains historical earthquake disaster in the area.

Case of elementary schools in TY city

1) K Elementary School

Form of learning: Two hours-open air classes for 3rd and 5th graders in **integrated study** period
Educational goal: Understanding of process of lava flow landform

Study contents: Observing landform and volcanic rock of the lava flow of the Quaternary volcano

2) T Elementary School

Form of learning: Experience learning of **environment study** for 6th grader.

Educational goal: No description. It looks like trying escalation in interest.

Study contents: In order to make a "newspaper", the students observe strata and fossils at the coast and columnar joints of basalt.



Case of elementary schools in K town

1) IZ Elementary School

Form of learning: Four hours-open air classes of **integrated study** for 5th grader.

Educational goal: No description.

Study contents: Terrace rice fields and disaster caused by debris flow

2) An Elementary School

Form of learning: Two hours-open air classes of **science**

Educational goal: Finding subject of research activities

Study contents: Observing rocks at the coast

Case of elementary schools in TT city

1) Social studies class (3 schools)

Form of learning: classroom
Educational goal: understanding community

Study contents: industry in the geopark

2) Science class (2 schools)

Form of learning: open-air class

Educational goal: escalation in interest study contents

Study contents: Observing geomorphology of coast, beds, rocks and fossil.

3) Integrated study period (1 school)

Form of learning: open-air class (3~4hours)

Study contents: Formative art using sands
Educational goal: (unknown)

Analysis

Most popular study contents related to the geopark is basic geology for the 6th grader. In integrated study classes, focusing subjects are ranging **science, social studies, homemaking, arts and crafts** in various grades. "Social studies" is also introduced. As described above, there are many types of studies in the geopark. One of the reason is the curriculum were developed on the basis of actual situation in the schools and local areas. An issue is the educational goals in the most of cases are not clear.

Consideration

No educational goal setting in many schools may mean the teachers didn't success making curriculums of the study in the geopark. To promote educational programs in the geopark, researchers and officers in the geopark should serve not only resources and teaching materials but also viewpoints of educational goals for compulsory education.



Acknowledgements Office of San'in Kaigan UGGP provided the author the report of educational programs. The author financially supported by San'in Kaigan UGGP Promotion Council.

Reference Working Group of Education, San'in Kaigan UNESCO Global Geopark Promotion Council (2015): Collection of case of teaching plans utilized regional research resources in San'in Kaigan Geopark. 94p.