

Pursuit of Home Economics educational research in a reciprocal relation with class practices

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In this article, several research outcomes reciprocally related to Home Economics classes are reported. First, the findings of a research are presented, which aim to clarify the paradigm changes in research on Home Economics classes. Research methods of 82 articles in the Journal of the Japan Association of Home Economics Education from 1960 to 2000 are investigated. It was found that quantitative analyses were used in many studies although qualitative analyses were presented in the more recent decades.

A mixed-method research is introduced in which both qualitative and quantitative approaches are used. The purpose of this research was to assess "Wolf Children" as a teaching material for child care education by analyzing data for students' cognitive process as a group and as a case-study. It was found that the problem of this material was the obscure information about the environment for Wolf Children before they were found which disturbed the development of students' cognitive processes.

Finally, this article shows a series of studies concerning the practice of Coeducational Home Economics in Kyoto and Nagano in 1960s and 1970s. One of the factors enabling the practice of coeducational home economics was the teachers who had their study meetings, wrote a textbook of coeducational home economics of their own, and studied the theory of coeducational home economics. The former teachers were interviewed and their life histories were collectively analyzed from the viewpoint of "personal time," "social time" and "historical time." It was found that their critical thinking was cultivated in their own families, schools, communities and society during and after the World War. As a result, these former teachers became aware of gender discrimination, and hoped to realize gender equality in education and society as well as in home economics.

Key words: home economics education, research on home economics classes, research methods, assessment of the teaching material, life history