

Effects of Learning about the Cost of Living on Life Planning at Home Economics Education in High School

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Abstract

The purpose of this study is to provide high school students a basic sense of economy associated to life and have them create their future ideal life plan from a realistic viewpoint. To this end, the lessons were designed to capture life from a viewpoint of “the cost of living” and understand the concrete amount of living expenses. The results were as follows:

- (1) Before these lessons, students were vague on future prospects, and “content of life” and “cost of living” were not linked together.
- (2) Through these lessons, students were able to relate “content of life” and “cost of living,” and knew the actual amount of money.
- (3) Students calculated their wage when working part-time, and they compared the necessary working hours to earn the living cost to “live with a family” and “living alone.” As a result, they understood how “work ethic” corresponds to “way of living.”

From this study, we can conclude that making the students aware of their life and related living cost is important in designing a concrete future life vision. It is also thought that it will lead to cultivating the concept of being economically independent.

Key words: high school students, the cost of living, financial independent attitude, life planning, home economics education