

# Practice of Learning About Older People in Home Economics in Junior High School : Incorporating Problem Solving Learning

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## Abstract

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In this research, we examined the connection between “Diversity of Older People” and “Cooperation and Collaboration with Older People” by introducing the problem solving process to the students in home economics class in a junior high school.

First, we find that the students use the opportunities to deepen their understanding of the diversity among older people. Especially, students are able to better understand the “volunteer,” “circle activities” and “hobby” of older people. The students were asked to write the report about the ways to cooperate and collaborate with older people in daily life. Their reports were classified into four categories: “support for older people,” “method of communication with them,” “approaching them,” and “method of collaboration with them.” These reports show that they find what they can do to solve the social and life problems of older people by cooperating with each other.

In this research, numerical approaches about the students' attitude to cooperation and collaboration with elderly are not presented. To accomplish this, we need to create the ways to count the students' attitudes toward cooperation and collaboration with older people and to ensure the validity of this method.

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*Key words*; junior high school, learning about older people, problem solving learning, diversity of older people, cooperation and collaboration with older people