

Home Economics Education Guaranteeing Children's Rights of Life and Independence : From the Content Analysis of Japanese Government Report and the Concluding Observations Based on SDGs of the United Nations' Committee on the Rights of the Child

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Abstract

This paper examines the application of ESD in home economics education to foster citizenship by analyzing the UN's sustainable development society. The Japanese government's report (2017) to the United Nations on children's rights, and the concluding observations of the United Nation's Committee on the Rights of the Child (2019) directed toward Japan are examined. These observations were made against the backdrop of the pursuit of Sustainable Development Goals. The report and concluding observations are investigated as a framework through which the present status of children's rights in Japan can be highlighted—including the problems that need to be addressed, and how this subject might be connected to what is taught in Home Economics classes.

In conclusion, it is important for Home Economics classes to incorporate information on the social efforts and government measures taken to guarantee the rights of children. Moreover, with the goal of concretely improving children's lives, such classes ought to pursue a style of learning that respects children's opinions, thereby helping to foster their physical and spiritual autonomy. Reproductive health education must be implemented. Furthermore, I argue that to assist children in developing into economically and socially independent adults, it is helpful for them to be able to express their opinions on new ways of living or shaping the society. Learning that creates opportunities for participating in society is also beneficial: It can enable children to become conscious of their future roles in constructing a sustainable development society. This self-understanding of structuring content around the inter-relatedness of self-help, cooperation and public assistance during adolescence, is linked to their eventual independence.

Key words; the rights of the child, independence, home economics education, SDGs
(Sustainable Development Goals), ESD (Education for Sustainable Development)