

5. Lifelong Learning 生涯学習

"Lifelong learning" is the promotion of independent, personally motivated learning, which is one of the policies being actively pursued in Japan today. Different from school education and aimed at both youth and adults, the development of organized educational activities, or "social education," plays an extremely important role in the promotion of lifelong learning.

Aichi has been undergoing several social transformations in recent years, including internationalization, the information revolution, and the aging of the population. This has all brought a large new pool of students interested in learning activities. In order to respond to this new trend, the Aichi Prefectural Board of Education is making efforts to offer information about learning activities to prefectural citizens, and to train instructors. In addition, the Board sponsors social education programs aimed at different groups of prefectural citizens, including adults in general, women, youth, and senior citizens.

In cities, towns, and villages, practical use is being made of neighborhood facilities such as community centers, libraries, and museums, with each facility offering its own independent lifelong learning programs. Other organizations including children's groups, women's organizations, and youth organizations make use of such facilities as the learning sites for their own activities.

現在我が国では、人が一生を通じて自主的、自発的に学習するという「生涯学習」を推進する施策が積極的に進められており、学校教育とは別に、主として青少年、成人を対象に組織的な教育活動を展開している「社会教育」は、生涯学習推進の上で非常に大きな役割を果たしている。

近年の国際化、情報化、高齢化等の社会の変化に伴い、新たな学習活動に取り組む人々が多くなってきている。このため、愛知県教育委員会では、県民の学習活動への情報提供や指導者の養成などに努力するほか、成人一般・女性・青少年・高齢者など広く県民を対象に社会教育事業を提供している。

市町村では、公民館・図書館・博物館などの住民に身近な施設を活用して、それぞれ独自の生涯学習関連事業を実施するほか、子ども会・女性団体・青少年団体などは自らの学習する場として同施設を利用し、自主的に活動を行っている。