

NWEC

NEWSLETTER

A Biannual Publication of the National Women's Education Centre of Japan

NWEC TWENTIETH ANNIVERSARY PROGRAMMES

COMMEMORATION CEREMONY AND CELEBRATION

This year saw the twentieth anniversary of the founding of the National Women's Education Centre (NWEC), which was established in 1977 as an institution attached to the Ministry of Education, Science, Sports and Culture for the purpose of promoting women's education by providing practical training for leaders and others involved in the field, and carrying out relevant specialised surveys.

To commemorate the twentieth anniversary of the centre, various programmes were implemented under the general theme of "Empowerment is the Password to the Twenty-first Century - Towards a New Relationship of Sharing the Joy of Living".

On Friday, 14 November a commemoration ceremony and celebrations were held with approximately 300 people from around Japan and overseas in attendance. Following the address given at the commemoration ceremony by Ms Teruko Ohno, the director-general, congratulatory addresses were given on behalf of the guests by Vice Parliamentary Minister of Education, Science, Sports and Culture, the Honourable Kensaku Morita and Mr Takeo Nishioka, member of the House of Representatives and former Minister of Education, and on behalf of women's groups, Ms Kii Nakamura, chairperson of The National Council of Women's Centres and on behalf of overseas institutions, Dr Anne S. Walker, executive director of



the International Women's Tribune Centre.

At the celebrations, following the congratulatory speech given by Ms Yoko Nuita, the first director-general, a toast was proposed by Ms Michiko Kanda, chairperson of the Advisory Board of NWEC, commemorating the centre's twentieth anniversary and drawing the celebrations to a successful close.

The centre's acronym NWEC was officially chosen as its nick name and a new symbol was announced at the commemoration ceremony. In future it is hoped that this symbol will be used in conjunction with the acronym.

(Hidenori Ukita, Chief of the General Affairs Unit, NWEC)

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INTERNATIONAL FORUM ON WOMEN AND LIFE-LONG LEARNING 1997



1. Outline

Following the ceremony commemorating the twentieth anniversary of NWEC, the International Forum on Women and Life-long Learning 1977, entitled "Women's Networks towards the Twenty-first Century", was held from Friday, 14 November to Sunday, 16 November as part of the anniversary programme.

Twelve specialist guests, 6 from Japan and 6 from overseas, were invited to the forum and there was a total of over 500 participants, including 40 from overseas.

The schedule was as follows:

- Day 1 Symposium
- Day 2 Group discussions
- Day 3 Report of group discussions
Plenary Session

2. Symposium

Professor Hiroko Hara from the Institute for Gender Studies at Ochanomizu University was the coordinator and the following 6 invited specialists formed the panel: Ms Kum-Ja Chung, President, Korean Women's Development Institute (KWDI) [based in Korea], Ms Chandni Joshi, Regional Programme Advisor, The United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM) [based in India], Prof. Geertje Lycklama a Nijeholt, Professor in the field of Women and Development Studies, Senator (Upper House of Dutch Parliament) [based in the Netherlands], Dr Devaki Jain,

Member, Executive of Indian Association for Women's Studies (IAWS) [based in India], Dr Anne Walker, President, International Women's Tribune Center (IWTC) [based in U.S.A] and Ms Ximena Charnes, General Co-ordinator, ISIS International [based in Chile].

Each specialist offered her congratulations to NWEC on the twentieth anniversary and then gave presentations on activities of her institute.

Question and answer session with the audience followed which focused on the budgets of each institution and basic laws regarding women in their respective countries, in search of the expected role of women's centres in the twenty-first century.

3. Group Discussion

(1) Group 1: Gender and Education/Learning

With Professor Yasuko Muramatsu from the Faculty of Education at Tokyo Gakugei University as the co-ordinator, Ms Kum-Ja Chung, Ms Chandni Joshi and Professor Mioko Fujieda from the Faculty of Literature at Kyoto Seika University gave presentations.

Besides introducing the programmes being carried out by KWDI, Ms Chung reported on the state of school education





and lifelong learning in Korea. Ms Joshi reported on the activities of UNIFEM as a life-long learning body, and gave concrete examples of how these activities connect to policymakers at country level and international level. Professor Fujieda pointed out the illusion of

equality in Japanese education, namely the impression that there is more equality in education than in other areas, and stated that to realise policies for gender equality at the level of local autonomous bodies, it is necessary to have training for the staff of these bodies.



University served as the co-ordinator with Professor Geertje Lycklama, Dr Devaki Jain and Professor Hiroko Hara giving presentations.

Professor Lycklama spoke about the activities of the Institute of Social Science (ISS), which has a

master's degree course in the field of women and development, and pointed out the problems with development issues as an academic subject being centred on theory and not connecting to actions. Dr Jain reported that Indian women who have been fighting for gender issues



for the last twenty years are fatigued, an increase in women's studies departments at universities and women's NGOs is causing in some parts a deterioration in quality. She also mentioned the increase in women politicians through affirmative action. Professor Hara introduced the



After the presentations, all 70 participants took part in a discussion. Opinions were exchanged on the purposes of education and learning, and the necessity of separate learning programmes for different groups. The following conclusions were reached from this discussion; "in

school education the teachers themselves must be educated", "training for police officers and judges is necessary", "based on the exchange of the rich experiences in this group discussion, participants should make suitable concrete plans for themselves", and "there is no end to learning".



history of gender studies at Ochanomizu University and pointed out in particular the importance of strategies for securing funding.

All participants took part in the ensuing lively debate which raised such important issues as the fact that the legitimacy of women's studies as an academic discipline has still not been established in uni-



(2) Group 2: Women's Studies - Their Fruits and Problems

Professor Junko Kuninobu, Director of Institute for Gender and Women's Studies at Aichi Shukutoku



versities. Finally, the following points were raised as current issues; "the necessity of women having their own media and supporting each other so that they are not unduly influenced by a male-centred media", "it is impossible to demand all women's studies from women's studies centres, therefore a specialisation of functions is necessary" and "the establishment of women's studies departments to educate the new generations is essential".

(3) Group 3: Women's Information and Empowerment



Dr Walker presented examples of the activities at the International Women's Tribune Center and stated the importance of women making informed choice, that is they have access to sufficient information to take part in society. Ms Charnes spoke on the role of ISIS Interna-

Professor Miiko Kodama from the Faculty of Literature at Musashi University was the coordinator, with Dr Anne Walker, Ms Ximena Charnes and Ms Fusako Fujiwara, Director of the Japan Association for Women's Education giving presentations.



tional, which has created a network of women in the southern hemisphere. Ms Fujiwara drew on her 40 years of experience as a journalist in a major newspaper company to report on how much important information related to women is cut out in the editing process.



In the afternoon there was a debate involving all participants, in which the following points were confirmed as necessary: "raising women's media literacy", "creating networks and making practical use of women's information", "increasing the number of women in mainstream media" and "widening the



circle of women's centres, including NWEC, as bases".

4. Report of Group Discussions

With Ms Fusako Fujiwara as the general coordinator each group co-ordinator reported on her group's discussion.

5. Plenary Session

At the plenary session presided over by Ms Fusako Fujiwara, the 9 specialists who gave presentations at the group discussions formed a panel. There was a very lively exchange of opinions on their expectations for NWEC having commemorated its twentieth anniversary and the role of women's networks in the twenty-first century.

Both the panelists and audience pointed out to each other in particular that peace is essential for gender equality, the necessity of training for men and teachers to learn gender equality, and confirmed the necessity for each person to take action within their own sphere of life. The three day forum drew to a successful close.

(Yuko Yuhara, Specialist, Information and International Exchange Division, NWEC)



WOMEN'S EXCHANGE FESTIVAL

Since NWEC opened in 1977 as a national centre to promote women's life-long learning, it has been utilised by approximately 33,000 groups and over 2,100,000 people, fulfilling its role as a place for the active study, exchange, provision of information and research into women's education and home education.

The Women's Exchange Festival was held from 7-9 November to commemorate these last twenty years. This festival was implemented as an attempt to create national network through an exchange of presentations and reports on results of the learning and cultural activities utilizing various NWEC amenities as a life-long learning facility over the years, as well as the long-standing learning and practical activities in various regions. An overall theme was selected to commemorate the twentieth anniversary: "Empowerment is the Password to the Twenty-first Century - Towards a New Relationship of Sharing the Joy of Living".

The 1,135 participants from 30 metropolitan areas and prefectures across the country came from as far as Hokkaido to the north and Kumamoto prefecture in the south, representing 88 women's groups, far exceeding the 600 participants originally sought. Ninety two percent of these were women. Thirty four percent were in their fifties, the largest age group represented, whilst the number of people in their forties and sixties accounted for 20% each.



Festival Programme

1. Presentation of Papers Accepted for the First Issue of the Journal of National Women's Education Centre of Japan

A report and review of the three papers accepted for this journal inaugurated on the occasion of the twentieth anniversary, was given by Dr Masako Amano, chairperson of the journal committee.

2. Information Provided by NWEC

Staff from the centre provided information on issues that have been identified regarding changes in the social environs of women, women's education and home education, through programmes conducted by the centre in the twenty years it has been open.

3. Topic Discussion

The following 6 topics on the issue of women's and home education were presented for discussion: "The current situation of Japanese women", "Education and learning in women's studies", "How to give children greater zest for living in the home", "Regional activities network and group activities", "Volunteer activities" and "Information training".

4. Free-plan Programme

Thirty-three women's groups from across the nation, at their own initiative applied and carried out a free-plan programme to present the results of long-standing learning and practical activities of regional groups or those based in NWEC. There was one presentation from each region and a total of 418 people were involved. The presentations were not only reports of learning activities, but were also demonstrations of a wide range of cultural activities which use social education facilities, such as tea ceremony, the art of incense smelling, handicrafts, pottery, chorus, dance and drama etc.

5. Open Lecture

Under the theme of "Partnership Between Men and Women - Seeking a New Relationship of Sharing the Joy of Living", Mr Tsutomu Hotta, lawyer and president of the Sawayaka Welfare Foundation, gave an address with a unique point of view on promoting "women's participation in economic activity and men's participation in the home" as a basis of the partnership between men and women.

In addition there was much liveliness late into the night as the participating groups presented folk dances, special performances, self-introductions and mixed freely together.

Three eventful days closed with the participants very much invigorated and hopeful. They achieved a greater level of self-realisation by giving presentations at the festival and reflecting and evaluating the fruits of their activities. Through networking they hope to find fresh momentum for their future activities aimed at empowerment and through developing their problem solving skills to embark on activities to build a gender equal society.

(Chieko Kobayashi, Specialist, Programme Division, NWEC)

SPECIAL EXHIBITION

A special exhibition to commemorate the twentieth anniversary of NWEC was held over the month of November in the exhibition hall on the second floor of the main building. The exhibition was in two parts; the mainly photographic "A Twenty-year Journey through the Medium of Sight" showing the course of NWEC over the last 20 years together with a display of documents and reports produced by the centre, and a chronological table entitled "Another Twenty Years - The Course of Volunteer Activities", made by NWEC volunteers which also had a display of documents and works.



The exhibition was held to coincide with the functions commemorating the anniversary and was viewed by many of the participants from the events held during November; the Women's Exchange Festival, the Ceremony of NWEC

Twentieth Anniversary, International Symposium, the International Forum on Women and Lifelong Learning, and the Vol-



unteer Festival.
(Yoshiko Ikeda,
Chief of Information Unit,
NWEC)

NWEC VOLUNTEER FESTIVAL

The NWEC Volunteer Festival was held on Saturday, 22 and Sunday, 23 November 1997 with 300 participants from across the country. This festival was held by the volunteers who have been active over the last 19 years in supporting users of the centre, to celebrate the twentieth anniversary, and was planned as a follow-up to the "Women's Facilities and Volunteers" symposium held in Sonic City, Omiya in September. At the public round-table discussion with successive director-generals, a long-held wish, many of the volunteers found fresh inspiration as a result of



hearing the enthusiastic messages delivered by the former director-generals on topics such as the particulars regarding the introduction of volunteers into NWEC and its role as a national centre. The following day at the "Meeting Lifelong Learning Volunteers" and workshops planned by participants, there was a spirited exchange of opinions taking various stances on issues related to volunteer activities and creating a network in future.

(Ikuyo Yasuda, Specialist, Programme Division, NWEC)

NWEC NEW PROGRAMME

SEMINAR ON GENDER EQUALITY EDUCATION FOR TEACHERS

On 26 and 27 August 1997 a seminar on gender equality education for teachers was held for teachers and board of education superintendents from across the country with 140 participants, exceeding the number of places set.

There was a strong request from the participants in the NWEC Advanced Course held every year - particularly those involved with school education - to have an independent programme for teachers, and so this new seminar was achieved with the cooperation of the Women's Education Division, Lifelong Learning Bureau, Ministry of Education, Science, Sports and Culture, and the Upper Secondary School Division in the Elementary and Secondary Education Bureau.

The purpose was to provide practical training conducive to the establishment of a more profound viewpoint sensitive to gender (sexual discrimination formed socially and culturally) and guidance in areas related to gender equality in school education, as a part of lifelong learning for teachers directed at creating a society with gender equality. The theme was "Gender in school education/ Considering gender equality education".

The first day opened with a greeting from Ms Teruko Ohno, the NWEC director-general, followed by a lecture delivered by Dr Masako Amano, professor at Ochanomizu University. Following this the participants split into groups to discuss 5 areas at schools and consider them from a gender perspective. The plenary session on the second day received reports from the group discussions, evaluations from the advisers at the group discussions and an exchange of opinions from the audience.



Outline of the Lecture and Group Discussions

Lecture: Gender Construction in Schools Given by Professor Amano

After explaining the basics of 'what is gender', the premise of the groups' discussions, Professor Amano spoke on the necessity of thinking about the gender equality education that is happening in schools now. "Schools have a major role in creating a consciousness and sense that is free from the binds of gender, that is in creating a society with gender equality. It is true within the institutional framework of equal educational opportunities, women's educational standards have improved and their sense of their own rights and equality have been promoted. However, in the world actually experienced by children and students, things are different according to whether one is a male or female. In school culture which appears at a glance to have gender equality, there is an invisible aspect which is internalised as the 'hidden curriculum'.

How to change this is a big challenge". This was the question posed by Professor Amano, and she gave the following examples of 'hidden curriculum' as causing the reproduction of gender norms and hastening socialisation: (1) the bias in school knowledge - textbooks are handled and produced in a male-dominated world; (2) the interaction process between teachers and students - the attitude of teachers towards students and time given to them is biased in favour of boys, which students are aware of; (3) class rolls -



implanting the concept of boys being listed ahead of girls; (4) academic counselling - the fixed ideas of teachers that boys are science orientated and girls are humanities orientated hinders free choice; and (5) the composition of teachers groups - there are few women at management level, gender biases among the numbers of teaching staff depending on the subject, and a lack of a variety of models for diverse ways of life. It was stressed that the guidance given by each individual teacher from their particular view of gender affects not only the school but the society in a big way.



Group Discussion A: "Class management from a gender perspective"

The promotion of mixed class rolls, current state of class management and related issues were discussed, based on the equality education for boys and girls being implemented by Mito city, in which the order of class rolls in all public elementary and middle schools is mixed.

the proper competence to react to the media in education through an analysis of TV commercials.

Group Discussion E: "Subject guidance from a gender perspective - a case study of joint male/female home economics"

Based on a case study presentation from a high school teacher who had applied lessons learned from women's studies to home economics classes, the necessity of boys learning home economics and extent of the role for home economics was discussed.



Group Discussion B: "Academic counselling from a gender perspective"

This is the area in which the teacher's gender perspective is most reflected. At the same time in actual society there are many more jobs offered for men but few for women. As a consequence, girls progressively lose their dreams and feel anxious about their future prospects. The realities of the issue were discussed.

Group discussions were set for three and a half hours in the programme but there were requests for further discussion time and many small groups could be found in the conversation rooms engaged in lively debate until late at night.

There were discrepancies in the level of knowledge and interest among the participants in gender equality education ranging from teachers who were hearing the word 'gender' for the first time to teachers who were already actively trying to implement mixed class rolls, many of them, however, expressed interest in making the most of what they had learned in their future teaching activities.

(Ikuyo Yasuda, Specialist, Programme Division, NWEC)

Group Discussion C: "Morality and special activities from a gender perspective"

The biases towards males and females depicted in the textbooks actually used for moral education were identified, and the group discussed what should be heeded in handling the subject in the teaching materials.

Group Discussion D: "Media literacy from a gender perspective"

The group studied the importance of acquiring

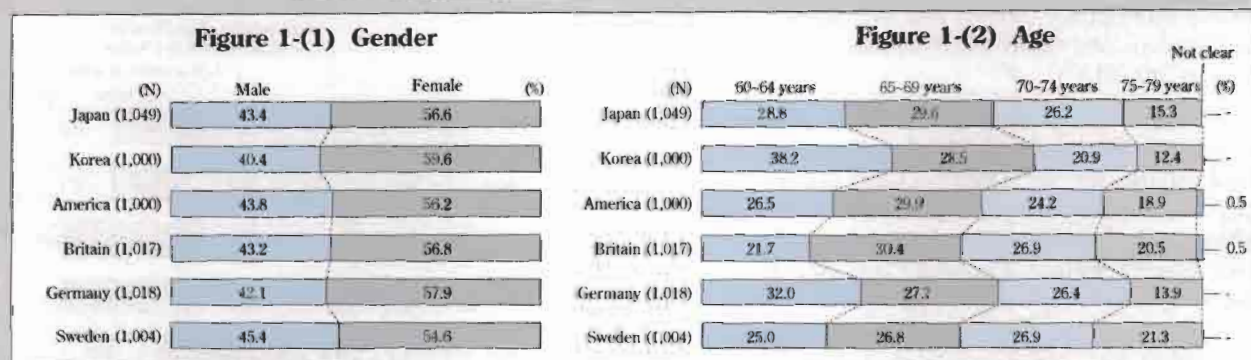


SURVEY REPORT

Report on an International Comparative Survey of Adult Education: An International Comparison of Learning Activities and Participation in Social Activities by the Elderly

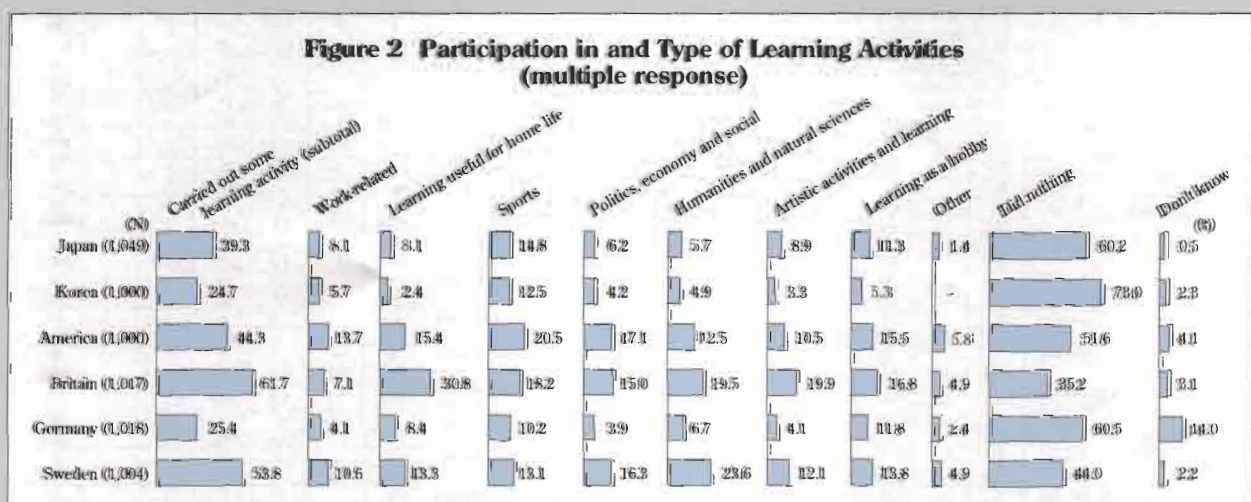
Faced with the prospect of an increasingly elderly society at the beginning of the twenty-first century, this survey was commissioned by the Ministry of Education, Science, Sports and Culture and carried out in 1996 by the National Education Centre: Training Institute of Social Education, from the perspective of building a prosperous and vital society as well as preparing basic reference materials for developing new policies on education for the elderly in Japan. It was a comparative survey of adult education in various countries, in particular looking at consciousness of

the need for, and actual state of education for the elderly, together with their participation in societal activities. Countries surveyed were Japan, Republic of Korea, United States of America, Britain, Germany and Sweden, with surveys of individuals (men and women over the ages of 60 and under 79 years), administrations and institutions carried out in each country. The survey results for mainly education and learning activities for the elderly are introduced here, with reference to the profiles of individual respondents shown in Figures 1-(1) and 1-(2).



First, in response to the question "What kind of learning activities did you do in the last year" (with multiple choice answers), Britain had the highest rate of people who were involved in some kind of learning activity with 61.7% (learning rate), the lowest was 24.7% in Korea. This learning rate is the percentage of people who selected one or more of the choices from items 1 to 8 (figure 2).

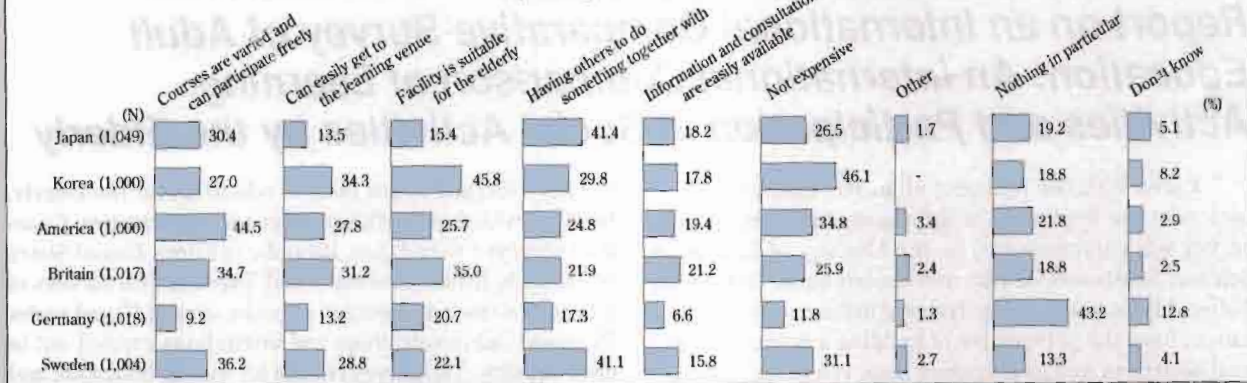
In Japan and Germany many respondents chose "Sports" and "Learning as a hobby" as the type of learning activity while "Sports" was at the top in Korea and America. The highest rated choice in Britain was "Learning useful for home life" while in Sweden it was "Humanities and natural sciences".



In answer to the question, what is important when undertaking some learning activity, "Having others to do something together with" was the top (Japan and Sweden), while "Varied courses which allow free participation" was the topmost answer in America (figure 3). "Not expensive,

with suitable facility for the elderly" were important factors in Korea, while having "Suitable facility for the elderly with varied courses allowing for free participation" were important in Britain. "Nothing in particular" was the most numerous answer in Germany.

Figure 3 Important Factors for Learning Activities (multiple response)



As shown in figure 4, most common kinds of support given to learning activities for the elderly in each country were: "Left to voluntary activity" (Japan), "Responsibility shared between government and civic bodies" (America and Sweden), and "Responsibility of the government" (Korea and Britain).

Next, some observations were made concerning the survey of facilities (tables). With America as the exception, in all countries the rate of facilities which provide "Consultation on learning activities" is higher than the rate of facilities which don't provide it. Also every country had the highest ratio of facilities which "Provided" "Opportunities for learning" at "No cost".

While 80% or more "Facilities were equipped with handrails and slopes etc." in America and Britain, the comparable figure was around 60% for Japan and Germany while 70% of facilities in Korea had "None of these".

Figure 4 Kinds of Support for Learning Activities

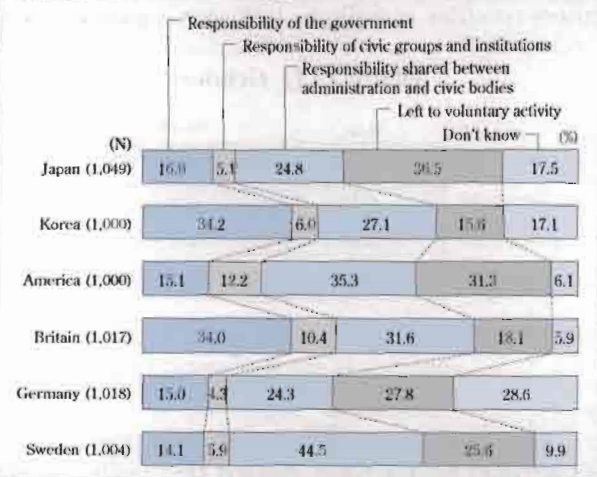


Table: Facilities for the Education and Learning Activities of Adults and the Elderly

- ① Currently implementing programmes for the elderly
- ② Plans to implement for the elderly
- ③ Implementing programmes as adult education
- ④ Not applicable
- ⑤ Don't know
- ⑥ No response

	①	②	③	④	⑤	⑥	Total
Availability of consultation on learning activities	Japan	11	-	10	9	-	30
	%	26.7	-	23.3	30.0	-	100.0
	Korea	30	1	4	2	-	27
	%	24.1	3.7	14.8	7.4	-	100.0
	America	9	-	3	13	-	25
	%	36.0	-	12.0	52.0	-	100.0
	Britain	3	-	18	9	-	30
	%	10.0	-	60.0	30.0	-	100.0
	Germany	10	2	4	5	-	21
	%	47.6	9.5	19.1	23.8	-	100.0
Sweden	3	-	24	3	-	30	
%	10.0	-	80.0	10.0	-	100.0	
Percentage of the total (N)	34.4	1.8	38.7	25.2	-	-	100.0
Availability of opportunities for learning	Japan	19	-	8	3	-	30
	%	63.3	-	26.7	10.0	-	100.0
	Korea	21	-	4	-	-	27
	%	85.2	-	14.8	-	-	100.0
	America	21	-	4	-	-	25
	%	84.0	-	16.0	-	-	100.0
	Britain	11	-	17	2	-	30
	%	36.7	-	56.7	6.7	-	100.0
	Germany	13	1	1	6	-	21
	%	61.9	4.8	4.8	28.5	-	100.0
Sweden	5	-	25	-	-	30	
%	16.7	-	83.3	-	-	100.0	
Percentage of the total (N)	56.4	0.6	36.2	6.7	-	-	100.0

	①	②	③	④	⑤	⑥	Total
Free programmes	Japan	13	-	10	7	-	30
	%	43.4	-	33.3	23.3	-	100.0
	Korea	14	2	2	9	-	27
	%	51.9	7.4	7.4	33.3	-	100.0
	America	21	-	3	1	-	25
	%	84.0	-	12.0	4.0	-	100.0
	Britain	8	-	13	9	-	30
	%	26.7	-	43.3	30.0	-	100.0
	Germany	16	-	-	5	-	21
	%	76.2	-	-	23.8	-	100.0
Sweden	3	-	14	13	-	30	
%	10.0	-	46.7	43.3	-	100.0	
Percentage of the total (N)	46.0	1.2	25.8	27.0	-	-	100.0
Pick-up and return service to learning venue	Japan	5	-	-	25	-	30
	%	16.7	-	-	83.3	-	100.0
	Korea	7	1	2	17	-	27
	%	25.9	3.7	7.4	63.0	-	100.0
	America	7	-	1	17	-	25
	%	28.0	-	4.0	68.0	-	100.0
	Britain	8	-	2	20	-	30
	%	26.7	-	6.7	66.7	-	100.0
	Germany	12	-	-	9	-	21
	%	57.1	-	-	42.9	-	100.0
Sweden	4	1	3	22	-	30	
%	13.3	3.3	10.0	73.4	-	100.0	
Percentage of the total (N)	26.4	1.2	4.9	67.5	-	-	100.0
Facilities equipped with handrails and slopes etc.	Japan	4	2	6	18	-	30
	%	13.3	6.7	20.0	60.0	-	100.0
	Korea	5	2	1	19	-	27
	%	18.5	7.4	3.7	70.4	-	100.0
	America	20	-	2	3	-	25
	%	80.0	-	8.0	12.0	-	100.0
	Britain	24	1	5	-	-	30
	%	80.0	3.3	16.7	-	-	100.0
	Germany	9	-	-	12	-	21
	%	42.9	-	-	57.1	-	100.0
Sweden	3	1	17	6	3	30	
%	10.0	3.3	56.7	20.0	10.0	100.0	
Percentage of the total (N)	39.9	3.7	19.0	35.6	1.8	-	100.0

PUBLICATION

Two publications that were issued to commemorate the twentieth anniversary of the centre are introduced.

1. NWEC Twentieth Anniversary: A Twenty Year Journey through the Medium of Sight (in Japanese)

This is composed of three parts which outline the history of the centre; the "Annals" has a clearly written history lavishly illustrated with photographs, "Utilisation of the Centre" contains information related to users and makes the most of diagrams, tables and graphs, and "Evolution of the Programmes Held" is a chronological table devised to show at a glance the changes in themes.

It took a great deal of time to select photographs from over the past twenty years, and considerable care was taken so that people who do not understand Japanese can also enjoy looking through it. As this is also the kind of publication that is put together only once a decade, the greatest possible attention was paid to the layout so that it can also be used as a reference in future for explaining the centre in different situations.

2. The Inaugural Issue of the Journal of National Women's Education Centre of Japan (in Japanese with some English)

The aim of the journal is to contribute to the promotion of women's education by publishing the results of surveys carried out by the centre for wider distribution, and by improving research facilities in response to internationalisation and a changing information-based society so that the centre can be widely available to people researching and implementing life-long learning with a gender perspective. As the journal was planned right from the conceptual planning stages of the centre to

be the product of the research conducted, its launch on the occasion of the twentieth anniversary of the centre has great significance.

The theme of the inaugural issue is "Women's Empowerment". Additional notes giving the outlines of Japanese papers in English, and English papers in Japanese are attached at the end. These are given below.

Theme Papers:

Women's Education/ Study for Their Empowerment - An Examination of National Women's Education Policy. By Atsuko Shikuma.

Women's Empowerment with Gender and Development Perspective. By Yasuko Muramatsu.

Contributions

Papers:

- * Refreshing Beers and Caring Skin: The Construction of Gender in Japanese Television Commercials. By Keiko Aibe and Raymond A. Jussaume, Jr.
- * Child Abuse Image and Empowerment of Women. By Sachiko Takahashi.
- * "Being a Buraku person" and "Being a woman" at the same time. - An Analysis of the Life Histories told by two Buraku Women. By Mariko Tamai. Case Study:
Child-care Support Based on the Idea of Empowerment. By Yoko Kawai.

National Women's Education Centre Research Programmes

Papers:

- * Tasks and Prospects of Education and Learning in Women's Studies - Extracted from the Sixteen Year Track Record of "Women's Studies Course" at the National Women's Education Centre. By Chikako Uemura.
- * How to Organise Gender-related Seminars for Men. By Kimio Ito.
- * Gender Statistics in Japan - Present Situations, Problems and Solutions. By Yoichi Ito.

Research notes:

- * Japanese Policies on Women and "Women in Development": Trends since 1975. By Machiko Ito.
- * An Examination Through Practical Examples of the Theory of Cooperative Links Between Schools, Homes and Regions. By Hiroe Nakano.



INTRODUCING NWEC

1. Decision on a Symbol

NWEC invited the public to give ideas for a symbol and a nick name. By 15 July 1997, the deadline for proposals, 326 ideas from 227 people across the country had been received. A selection committee met on 6 August to select the best entry and three runners-up. The best entry was "a stylised design of a woman burning with hope and both hands held up to the sky".

2. NWEC Programmes

(1) NWEC Training Course for Information Processing on Women's Issues 1997

A training course to master the practical use of multi-media was held over the six week period from 24 July to 2 September 1997, with the purpose of acquiring skills related to the analysis, collation and presentation of women's issues. This year six trainees were invited to participate from the six countries of Bhutan, China, the Cook Islands, Mongolia, Nepal and Pakistan.

The programme for the 1998 training course will shortly be discussed and applications will open.



(2) Forum on Women's and Gender Studies

A three day forum on the theme of "Women's Empowerment, Women's Studies and Gender Research - The Creation of New Values", was held from 1-3 August 1997 with over 1400 participants from around the country.

The forum was very lively. In addition to a panel discussion there were 105 independently organised workshops addressing such important themes as "Women's Policies", "Women and Expression", "The Family in Transition" and "Women and Bodies". These workshops were run in creative ways, some featured reports, while others centred on discussion or even included performance.

(3) The Sixth Forum on Family Education

A programme on the general theme of "How to

give children greater zest of living" was held on 27 September 1997 under the sponsorship of the Ministry of Education, Science, Sports and Culture, NWEC, and the Saitama Prefectural Board of Education. It had 574 participants. In the first half singer-songwriter Rambo Minami gave an address on "Sowing the Seeds of Memory", and the second half took the form of a symposium with the theme of "This Family and That Family; All are Families".

(4) Seminar for Officers of Women's Education 1997

This seminar will be held for the second time from 27 January to 25 February 1998. The purpose is to improve educational opportunities for women in developing countries who have fewer educational chances than men, and to foster human resources with the objective of shouldering the responsibilities of development.

This year 13 officers from 12 countries will be invited.

EDITOR'S NOTE

As of June 1997, our Newsletter is mailed to 1,997 organisations (including individuals) in 178 countries. We wish to expand our network for a wider and more active exchange of information. Please advise us of any organisation which should be placed on our mailing list. We also invite your comments and questions concerning the NWEC Newsletter.

International Exchange Unit

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