

The effects “bosai” novels written by high school students have on others - based on surveys in Japan and Taiwan

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The Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology promotes education that contributes to global leadership development at high schools and other institutions. Super Global High School (hereinafter referred to as SGH) has been selected by the Ministry to foster global leaders, and to encourage students' interest in social issues and enhance higher education, communication skills and problem solving skills. In 2016, we engaged in a collaborative class that consisted of 15 high school sophomore students at Fujimigaoka High School for Girls, which is one of the selected SGHs. The high school selected the theme of "disaster and community", and after learning about this topic throughout the year, the students traveled to Central Taiwan in late December as an overseas training required by SGH. Students exchanged opinions in English with the Taiwanese high school students that live in the area that were heavily affected by the September 21st, 1999 Chi-Chi earthquake.

From June to August, we taught students basic scientific knowledge on earthquakes and informed the distinctions between earthquakes as a hazard and the resulting disasters. We had the students write a "bosai(disaster prevention)" novel when they gained an awareness that even though earthquakes itself can not be eliminated, their actions could limit the amount of damage. "Bosai" novel is a fictional story about what the author would do and how he/she and his/her family members would feel in case of a massive earthquake in the near future. This project has already been evaluated at Tosashimizu Municipal Shimizu Junior High School in Kochi Prefecture. (Oki et al., 2017).

From September to October after summer vacation, the students to selected one “bosai” novel from the 15 different stories they wrote, and brushed it up to present the story at a cultural festival. The audience were mostly parents and people from outside the school. Since there were positive feedbacks from the audience at the cultural festival, the same story was broadcasted at school during morning homeroom, and all the junior high school students listened to it. A questionnaire survey was conducted on the second year middle school students and high school sophomores, three days after the broadcast. The result showed high disaster awareness; however, we have realized that the students awareness does not necessarily lead to action. In addition, the response "I noticed the importance of daily life" showed a particularly high result, supporting the significance of “bosai” novels as a means of nurturing consummatory thinking, as well as education on “bosai” .For the Taiwan fieldwork in December, "bosai” novels were translated into English and Chinese and read out to the local Taiwanese high school students in Chinese. We conducted a questionnaire survey on the "bosai” novels right after the presentation, and found results similar to that of Fujimigaoka High School. However, we have not done any investigation on whether or not it stimulated “bosai” actions.

In this presentation, we will present the development of the "bosai” novel project targeted towards junior high school and high school students, and its effects based on the surveys in Japan and Taiwan.

Keywords: disaster prevention, education, earthquake