

Damage to schools caused by great earthquakes and restoration of normal operation

*Hitoshi Nakai¹

1. Kobuchisawa Research Institute for Nature and Education

In the Great Hanshin-Awaji Earthquake and the Great East Japan Earthquake, the schools in the disaster-affected area suffered tremendous damage. While this damage to school buildings is relatively well-known due to the images posted to the Internet or from news reports, whether schools have been successful in resuming normal operation is less well understood outside the stricken areas. For the benefit of those who are to come, the local governments in these areas have recorded the damage inflicted on school facilities and the struggle that the schools and the education committees involved have faced in reconstructing the schools and resuming the provision of education. However, such invaluable materials rarely see the light of day because they are buried in a vast mountain of records covering various fields. We focus on the above two major disasters and discuss similarities and differences in the initiatives taken toward resuming school operations, and summarize the issues that teachers should be prepared to face in the event of a disaster.

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